

The Four Great Dangers.



*Each Friar, Lawyer, Fox, and Cat
Full plainly shew what they'd be at.
The Goose may fly the Mouse may run
But Man and Maid are both undone.*

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THE
COMPANION
FOR THE
FIRE-SIDE:

OR,
Winter Evening's Amusement.

BEING
A CURIOUS COLLECTION

Of entertaining and instructive

Stories,		Eastern Tales,
Tales,		Novels,
Fables,		Remarkable Events,
Allegories,		and
Historical Facts,		Singular Occurrences.

Selected from the best Writers in several Languages,
many of which never appeared in print before.

*To pass the dull Evening in Pleasure away,
And laugh at the Cares of Mankind;
Accept of a chearful Companion To-day,
To Mirth and Amusement inclin'd.
The Contents of our Volume will amply repay
The Expence that the Purchase has cost;
And none but a Blockhead will seriously say,
That his Time or his Money is lost.*

L O N D O N :
Printed for J. COOKE, No. 10. Pater-noster-Row,
MDCCLXVIII.



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THE
COMPANION
FOR THE
FIRE-SIDE.

The BLACK BOX.

[Taken from an ancient Manuscript.]

AN opulent and powerful nobleman of the last century, having incurred a strong suspicion of treasonable practices, and finding himself exposed to the stroke of justice, consulted with his faithful steward on some practicable means of averting the impending punishment. After much deliberation, and various proposals, it was resolved, at the pressing instances of his lordship, that the steward should make himself a principal, and by declaring that he was the sole
B perpetrator

perpetrator of the treasonable facts, totally exculpate his master. To encourage him to persevere in this resolution, the nobleman assured him, in the most solemn manner, that although he might be convicted and condemned, he would procure him a pardon, and allow him, as a recompence for so signal a proof of his fidelity, a very considerable part of his estate.

The credulous steward, relying on these mighty promises, and instigated by the delusive prospect of future grandeur, publicly avowed the treason, declared himself to be the sole author and contriver of it, and absolutely cleared his lord from having the least knowledge of, or concern in it.

In consequence of this, as might reasonably be expected, sentence of death was soon after awarded against the steward, who being remanded back to prison, was visited by his lord under pretence (as a farther cloak for his own villainy) of making some important discoveries relative to the treason, but in reality to flatter him with an assurance that he had procured his pardon. For this detestable purpose, he presented to him a counterfeited pardon, which he took out of a black box, telling him at the same time, that notwithstanding he had obtained this signal favour at the hands of the king, it was his majesty's royal will and pleasure, that he should be carried to the place of execution, not only to save ap-
pearances,

pearances, but also a terror to others, and that after having addressed the spectators, the pardon should be produced, and he instantly discharged.

To encourage him further, his lord exhorted him not to be dismayed at any thing that should be done or said to him, as that was mere matter of form and necessary parade, and likewise assured him, that when, at the place of execution, he should see a person on his right hand holding up a black box, it should be an infallible sign of his pardon being enclosed therein.

The poor servant thus wrought on by the base arts of his treacherous master, was so far from apprehending the least dangerous consequence from his present situation, that he impatiently waited for the day of his supposed execution, which being arrived, the man with the black box appeared in view as soon as he came out of prison.

When he reached the place of execution, he espied the black box at his right hand, and vainly deeming this an infallible proof of his lord's veracity, proceeded to harangue the spectators, repeatedly acquitting his master of the least imputation of the crime.

As he protracted his time to an unusual length, the sheriff desired him to hasten to a conclusion, it being time for him to see his sentence executed; but the condemned man, with an air of confidence, told him, that there

was a person present, who had brought his pardon from court. The man with the black box was then called forth, and the contents being presented to the sheriff, were read aloud to the following purport: "Upon sight hereof you are commanded to see that justice be executed on the prisoner."

This positive order being instantly obeyed the credulous steward had no opportunity to discover the fraud, but fell a victim to his own folly, and the villainy of his noble master, and remains an eternal warning to posterity to beware of the promises of the Great, who too frequently debase themselves by little actions.

The GOLDEN HEAD.

SOON after the burning of the stately palace of Whitehall, one Holmes, a tradesman, who lived in George-yard, (the spot on which Great George-street now stands) passing over the ruins stumbled on something which, attracting his curiosity, he minutely observed, and discovered to be a kind of distant resemblance of a bust, but as it was greatly effaced by the effects of the fire, he could draw no certain conclusion from it.

However, he carried it home, and having hammered off the drossy mass which adhered to

to it, his wife scowered it, and placed it as an ornament upon an old chest of drawers. As Goody Holmes was particularly industrious in rubbing the bust, whenever she cleaned her furniture, it soon became so bright, that upon comparison it was found to be an exact likeness of the celebrated Cardinal Wolsey. One of Holmes's customers, by trade a founder, having been shewn the bust, and conceiving it to be brass, agreed to purchase it, and accordingly having paid for it by the weight, carried it home.

When the founder, in the course of his business, had occasion to melt, the head was put amongst other metal; but as he discovered something very extraordinary in the ore, he carefully abstracted the brighter and more refined particles, and offering them to the inspection of a neighbouring goldsmith, was transported with his pronouncing it to be the purest of gold.

He immediately disposed of his valuable purchase, relinquished trade, and commenced gentleman at large; but made not the least acknowledgment to Holmes, though once his intimate companion; so dead are some breasts to every sentiment of justice and gratitude. This circumstance is related on the testimony of a friend of the Editor, whose father was a living witness of its authenticity.

The INGENUOUS SPANIARD.

IN the war between Spain and England, about the second year of the reign of king Richard II. two eminent warriors, Robert Hall and John Shakell, knights, happened to take in battle the Count de Dena, a Spanish nobleman of great rank and fortune, who being by the law of arms adjudged their prisoner, was brought into England, where he left his eldest son as a pledge, while he went to Spain in order to raise his own ransom. The Count on his return neglected to send the money; and in a little time paid the debt of nature; so that the title and estate devolving on the young hostage, the king importunately solicited the English heroes to release the Spanish cavalier. The knight, so far from complying with the king's request, would not even discover the place in which they had concealed him, and were therefore sent to the Tower, whence making their escape, they took sanctuary in Westminster Abbey: but Shakell being seized by a party of soldiers, headed by the duke of Lancaster, uncle to the king, was re-committed to the Tower, after Hall had been slain in bravely defending himself.

When the Council sat upon the affair it was resolved that Shakell should discover and deliver up the Count, and be set at liberty upon consideration that the king should settle upon him

him lands to the amount of an hundred marks a year, and pay him down five hundred marks in lieu of the expected ransom.

As it appeared vain to withstand the council, Shakell produced his captive, who was no other than his man that waited on him; for the honourable Spaniard had so great a regard to the word which he had solemnly passed, when he was accepted as an hostage, that he scorned to discover himself without the permission of the knight to whom he was bound; so that in the sanctuary and the Tower he served him in disguise, neglecting both his quality and his interest, when they stood in competition with his honour.

Hence we learn, that dignity of soul is not confined to any clime, sect, or party, and will always discover itself in a conduct actuated by the most noble, sublime, and disinterested principles.

INGRATITUDE. *A Tale.*

OF all the social virtues, gratitude is the most inculcated, and the least practised; but by none more than they who unexpectedly rise to great honours and fortunes. They often not only forget, but injure those friends who have contributed to their success or elevation.

A dean

A dean of St. Jago was so devoured with ambition, that he wanted even to learn the magic art, that he might the more effectually gratify his darling passion. Having heard that there was one Don Illian of Toledo, who was skilled in that science, he repaired thither, and after some difficulty got admission to him: he found him reading in his study, and after apologizing for his intrusion, entreated him, with many protestations of gratitude, to let him become his scholar. Don Illian answered, that as he was already a dean, and of a good family, he might probably come to great preferment; but men, when they had obtained all they wanted, most commonly forgot the services that had been done them; and he was afraid that he would not fulfil the promises he had now made. The dean assured him, that whatever good fortune befel him, he should share in it, and that he would be entirely at his disposal. Don Illian took him by the hand, thanked him for these friendly promises, and calling to a maid servant in the house, bid her get some partridges for supper, but not to put them down to roast till he ordered her. He then led the dean down a fine stone stair-case, into a study well furnished with books and instruments. This he told him was to be the place of his lectures. But before they could set down, two men came into the study, and brought the dean a letter sent him by the bishop his uncle, in which he acquainted

acquainted him, that he was dangerously ill; and desired him to post away immediately, if he would find him alive. The dean was concerned to hear his uncle was so ill, and the more, because he could not resolve to leave the studies he was about prosecuting; he therefore sent a letter of excuse, with promise to wait upon him in a few days, and began his lectures. Within four days after came other letters, informing him that his uncle had departed this life, and that he was chosen bishop in his stead. When Don Illian heard this, he begged of him to bestow his vacant deanery upon a son of his; but the new bishop desired he would be contented a while for his own brother must have it, but that if he and his son would go with him to St. Jago, he would take care of both their fortunes, and make them amends for this delay. Upon this, they went to St. Jago, where they staid some time. One day there came messengers to the dean with letters from the pope, naming him archbishop of Tolosa, with leave to dispose of his bishopric to whom he pleased. Don Illian upon this reminded him of what had passed, and of the promises he had made him, ending with a request of the bishopric for his son. The archbishop begged him to have a little patience, and that he would not take it ill, if he could not help bestowing the bishopric on an uncle by the father's side, but that he would take them with him to Tolosa, where

where he would do something extraordinary for them. Here they staid two years, when an express came from the Pope, which brought the archbishop a cardinal's hat, requiring his presence at Rome, and desiring him to give his demission of the archbishopric in favour of some friend. Don Illian applied to him again, and told him, that since he had failed him so often, he could now in honour refuse gratifying his son with this vacancy. The cardinal still begged of him to acquiesce in his giving this see to an uncle by his mother's side, saying, he was very ancient, might soon drop, and that, at worst, if he would accompany him to Rome, as he was now a cardinal, it would be in his power to serve him effectually. Don Illian, though vexed at these repeated disappointments, agreed to go with him to Rome; where Don Illian pressed him from time to time to do something for his son, but met with nothing but delays and excuses. In the mean time the Pope died, and the cardinal being unanimously elected Pope in his room, Don Illian told him he could now find no excuse for not making good his promises. The Pope, resenting his importunity, began to treat him roughly, saying, he was a forcerer and a heretick, and that he would send him to the inquisition. At these words, Don Illian called out aloud to the maid-servant to put down the partridges to roast. The imaginary Pope found himself in Toledo, and in the same

same apartment from which he had never stirred, and still the very identical dean of St. Jago; but so confounded and ashamed at what had passed, that he could not look Don Illian in the face, who, re-conducting him to the door, wished him a good-night, telling him that he had proved sufficiently the strength of his dependance upon him, in case he had assisted him in the gratification of his ambitious views.

FILIAL PIETY *rewarded.*

A Merchant of considerable trade, being by a train of losses and disappointments, reduced to negotiate a letter of license from his creditors, all consented to give it him, except one, who not only peremptorily refused to join with the rest, but sued for his debt, which was about three hundred pounds, and threw the unhappy petitioner into a jail. His son, who was then out of town, on the first news of this misfortune, without seeing his father, posted directly to the house of this severe creditor, and employed the most moving intercessions for a discharge. But these producing no effect, he begged him to accept of his person, as a ransom for his father's, and offered to go joyfully to prison in his stead. This too being refused, the youth, in a transport

sport of despair, embraced the knees of this inflexible creditor, and declared he would not stir till he was either torn from them, or had obtained his suit. The creditor, struck to the heart with so much resolution in so worthy a cause, changed his purposes as if by miracle, and raising him gently up, told him, that so good a son could not make a bad son-in-law; and that he hoped he would forgive his severity for the reparation he was disposed to make for it, which was not to be confined to the release of his father, but be extended to the bestowing upon him his only daughter, with a fortune that would amply make up the losses of his family. The joy of the son may be more easily imagined, than that which was felt by the father, at the news of his deliverance, the retrieval of his affairs, and above all, the evidences of filial piety, from which all this good was derived.

*The Prevalence of LOVE, and Force of
PASSION.*

DON Guzman, a wealthy merchant in the city of Madrid, was father to Juan, a youth of sense and honour, and guardian to the lady Leonora, whose beauty was only exceeded by the virtues of her mind.

The

The son and ward conceived for each other in their earliest years, a friendship which, in process of time, terminated in the sincerest love and most cordial affection, and such were their respective dispositions, as to afford the agreeable prospect of a series of uninterrupted happiness. But an event occurred before the consummation of their wishes, which cast a gloom over all their pleasing hopes, and produced the most exquisite pain and anxiety, that can possibly torture the human mind.

The Marquis de Mendosa saw the beautiful Leonora, and was so struck with the lustre of her charms, that he determined at all events to obtain her in marriage. As he was extremely rich, and had very great influence at Court, he prevailed with Guzman to permit his addresses to the lady notwithstanding her prior engagement with his own son Juan, for whom it was suspected he had procured a person of much greater fortune than his fair and virtuous ward.

Though Guzman determined to sacrifice Leonora to the will of the Marquis, he was at a loss whether he should acquaint his son, that he changed his mind concerning the match, or whether he should impart it to him by some common friend. At length, however, thinking himself the properest person to disclose the affair, he took an opportunity of telling him, that for divers weighty reasons he must resign all thoughts of possessing Leonora.

C

Don

Don Juan was thunderstruck at the information, and gave his father to understand, that though he owed him all duty and obedience, he could by no means relinquish a claim to which he was entitled by every pretension founded on justice or honour. Having hinted this, the generous youth retired to his chamber to avoid the pressing instances of his father, who afterwards sent for Leonora, and acquainted her with the passion that the noble Marquis had conceived for her, and his design of aggrandizing her name by a speedy marriage into so ancient and honourable a family. Leonora started at the proposal, and solemnly vowed eternal celibacy, unless she gave her hand to the generous and constant Juan, who was sole possessor of her heart, which therefore could not admit the smallest place for the greatest monarch upon earth. Guzman, incensed at the resolution of his ward, proceeded to more rigorous measures, and after a severe reprimand for her obstinacy, ordered her to prepare herself to receive a visit from the Marquis of Mendoza, as a person with whom she was allotted to spend the remainder of her life, and further enjoined her to deny the addresses of Juan. This last injunction completed her despair, and her grief was almost turned to fury, insomuch that she departed from her guardian's apartment, in order to give full vent to the sorrow which overwhelmed her faithful bosom. She had for some time past observed
a coolness

a coolness between Juan and his father, and now perceiving the cause, determined to write to him, wisely judging that a personal interview at this critical juncture would inflame the old man's resentment, and excite him to such a conduct as would be productive of much disquiet both to herself and lover. Accordingly she acquainted him of the injunction laid upon her not to receive his addresses, and painted the state and condition of her mind in the most striking and affecting colours. The domestic who delivered the letter brought back an answer, in which Don Juan conjured her by the love she had for him not to forget him, and assured her that his life was in her hands, nor would he hold it by any other tenure than her constancy.

As Don Juan, who was at this time on his father's business, absent from Madrid, could not afford her immediate assistance, Leonora determined to go into a convent, and having imparted her design to her waiting-maid, a coach was prepared, which soon conveyed her to an abbey, of which the abbess was her relation and particular friend. Guzman no sooner heard of his ward's elopement and the spot of her residence, than, through the interest of the Marquis, he obtained permission to place in the convent a woman that was one of his creatures, in order to be a spy upon Leonora: the nuns were likewise ordered to prevent any correspondence between her and Don Juan.

The Marquis sent to her repeatedly to desire permission to visit her at the grate, but she always refused, and not without tokens of scorn. Incensed at this behaviour, he determined to marry her merely to gratify his resentment, and after deliberating on the means of accomplishing his design, thought no expedient so effectual as that of removing Juan to a considerable distance from Leonora, nor was it long before fortune presented a favourable opportunity. The lover, notwithstanding the precaution of his father, and the vigilance of the woman placed by him in the convent as a spy upon his ward, had found means to correspond with her by letter, so that it was agreed thro' the assistance of the nun who was her confidant, that Juan should come in the night-time over a particular part of the garden-wall, that was not so high as the rest, and return after his visit the same way.

The enraptured youth eagerly repaired to the spot appointed, but to his confusion and astonishment had no sooner mounted the wall than he espied a person walking with two attendants behind him, in the street next to the garden. This person, anxiously desirous of knowing who had got into the convent, sent for the watch, which he posted at the very place where he imagined he was to come back. Having made this disposition, the Marquis de Mendosa (for he was the person) sent to acquaint the nuns that there was a man in the garden.

garden. While the lovers, little suspecting the fresh misfortune that was ready to fall upon them, were giving each other the most reciprocal marks of their affection, they heard a confused noise in the convent, which obliged them to separate. Don Juan hastened over the wall, but was no sooner down than two men rushed upon him, took away his sword, and in the king's name charged him to follow them. The captain of the guard caused him to be committed to prison, and drew up an information against him, which was next day laid before the solicitor-general.

The Marquis now imagined that his ruin was unavoidable, the violation of the walls of a convent being, in Spain, considered as a capital offence. His death, indeed, appeared inevitable, and the affair became the common topic of discourse throughout the metropolis, where Don Juan was generally beloved: all men of honour pitied his case, and solicited for him, but with small hopes of success. Don Guzman and the Marquis now came to a resolution of proposing to Leonora (as the king favoured the design) this alternative; either to save the life of Juan by consenting to wed Mendosa, or hasten his death by an obstinate refusal. A proposal of so delicate and important a nature could not but greatly embarrass the distressed fair one, who evinced every token of doubt and anxiety, and at length burst into this exclamation. "If this

“ is the only way of saving the life of Don
 “ Juan, I rather chuse to die with him, as I
 “ am well assured he loves me too well to con-
 “ sent to live upon such terms, and would
 “ grieve that I had prevented his death by
 “ such a concession.”

The marquis, enraged at her perseverance, declared that as she was willing that Don Juan should die, he would join with the nuns in prosecuting him, and assist those who sought his ruin. This declaration touched Leonora in the most sensible part, insomuch that her resolution failing, she consented, in order to save the life she held most dear, and having slowly uttered, “ Save the life of Don Juan, “ I will obey,” fainted. The Marquis procured her relief, and when she recovered she desired to be carried to her chamber.

The pardon was accordingly procured for Juan, but, previous to the delivery, Mendosa being for concluding the marriage, the unfortunate Leonora was wedded to his mortal enemy, whom nevertheless she considered as his deliverer.

Don Juan heard nothing of these transactions in the prison, where he was abandoned to the most melancholy reflections, so that he waited with impatience the time of his death, and the thoughts of its approach was the only comfort he had when the news was brought that the king had signed his pardon. On his being acquainted with the terms, description
 cannot

cannot paint the agitation of his soul, as the various impressions consequent upon it seemed as it were to have broken the very springs which put it in motion.

The person who acquainted him with Leonora's marriage, endeavoured to pacify him by a vindication of her conduct, giving him a particular detail of what his unfortunate mistress had suffered, and of the necessity to which she was reduced, of giving her hand to the Marquis of Mendosa.

The generous youth stood motionless for some time, till at length the passion he had for Leonora having recovered entire possession of his soul, he cried out, in a plaintive tone, "Alas! why has she loved me to such a degree? or rather, why did she not let me die?" "what shall I do with a life I so much hate?"

While Don Juan was thus complaining, the officers of justice came to set him at liberty; and he no sooner reached his own habitation, than he wrote to Leonora, expressing the greatest concern for the late transaction, and his unfeigned desire of the satisfaction of dying at her feet. She returned an immediate answer, modestly vindicating her late conduct, and representing the inexpediency of granting the favour requested.

The unfortunate Juan was so affected by this circumstance, that he resolved to indulge melancholy till it put an end to his misfortune, and accordingly shut himself up at home,
 spending

spending all his time in venting the bitterest complaints against the severities of his fortune.

While he was in this situation, a stranger desired to speak with him, and was no sooner admitted into his apartment, than he declared himself to have been the servant of the Marquis of Mendosa, that his master had discovered him when he got into the convent, sent him immediately to give notice of it to the nuns, and posted the watch under the wall, by whom he was arrested.

The injured Juan, who could not stifle his resentment a single moment, immediately sent the Marquis a challenge, couched in such terms as he could not refuse without bringing an eternal stigma on his character; it being therefore accepted, the antagonists met, and, without any parley drew their swords and fought most furiously. After a strenuous encounter, Juan determining to put an end by one push, to a duel which had lasted so long, made a full pass at the marquis, and run him into the breast; but received at the same time a stab in the bottom of his belly, which was altogether as dangerous. Both of the combatants lost so much blood that they could no longer stand on their feet, but fell down together the moment that a coach came up to them. This proved to be the carriage of Leonora, who having seen the challenge upon the table had hastened with all speed to prevent the fatal consequence.

Words

Words cannot express the devided state of the unfortunate Leonora's mind in this critical situation. Duty engaged her to support her husband; affection diverted her attention towards her lover; she shed tears in abundance while she was stopping the blood that flowed from the wounds of her husband; nor were the tears less sincere that were shed for the wounds of Don Juan, which continued bleeding. But the principal source of her grief was the necessity she was under of leaving her lover in that condition: love, however, at length prevailed over decorum; and she staid still a servant whom she had sent to the convent of the Carthusians, brought some of the nuns attendants, who carried Don Juan to the convent.

Though no audible converse passed upon this occasion between Leonora and Juan, the Marquis could not but perceive the cause of his wife's delaying her return home, nor could any thing but the languor consequent on the duel prevent him from reproaching her in the severest terms. The duel was well known at court; but as neither of their wounds proved mortal, justice took no cognizance of the matter, and there was no prosecution.

When the Marquis recovered from his wounds, such continual disputes happened between him and his spouse, who could not bear the least indignity offered to the name of her beloved Juan, that a separation being agreed

agreed upon, Leonora betook herself to a solitary retirement in order to indulge her reflections on the extraordinary fortunes through which she had passed, before she had attained to the age of five and twenty years. Don Juan, whose love though passionate was honourable, and therefore would not suffer him to make the least indign proposal to its object, determined to quit Madrid, and had almost finished the necessary preparations for his departure, when he received the news that the Marquis, in a fit of jealousy, rage and despair, had plunged a fatal javelin into his breast, and in a moment put a period to a more wretched existence. This circumstance so affected old Guzman, that sensible of his error in preventing, for a time at least a union designed by heaven, he hastened to his son, and himself conducted him to his beautiful bride, and soon after joined their hands, to the general joy of the family, and the whole city of Madrid.

The SAGACIOUS INDIAN.

AN Indian of Peru, who had lost a horse, discovered, after diligent search, that a Spaniard had stolen it: he complained to the magistrate of the place, and the parties were ordered to appear; when the Spaniard offering to swear that the horse was his own, the

poor

poor Indian was on the point of losing his cause; but suddenly throwing a cloak over the horse's head, he said to the Spaniard, "If it be really your horse, you can surely tell of which eye he is blind." The Spaniard, after some hesitation, and depending at least on the chance of the guess, said, it was the left. "May it please your worship, said the Indian, taking the cloak off, he is blind of neither." The judge perceiving the roguery of the Spaniard, and admiring the natural acuteness of the Indian, ordered the horse to be restored to him, with costs of suit, and committed the thief to prison.

PRIDE *whimsically punished.*

A Grave supercilious master of a college in Oxford, having some affairs to transact in London, set out for it, for the first time of his life, without knowing a step of the road: but thinking it beneath his dignity to enquire, he rode close after the stage coach which he knew was bound for that city, and by not losing sight of it, got snug and well to High-Wickam. Here indeed he happened to put up at a different inn; but keeping a sharp look-out for his pilot-coach, it appeared at length, and following it as before, found himself in the evening safely arrived—at Oxford.

The

The case was thus ; the coach had exchanged passengers with that which came from London, and, by returning to Oxford, had led the grave Doctor into this mistake.

The SLAVE of DAMASCUS.

A Slave, who had fled from the Caliph of Damascus, being retaken, the Caliph in his presence consulted the Vizier upon his punishment. The Vizier advised his being immediately put to death : at hearing of which the slave cried out, May it please your majesty I shall contentedly submit to this sentence, if I have one favour previously granted me. What is that, said the Caliph. Why that I may kill this Vizier, who has advised my death, for then your majesty will have cause to order me to execution ; whereas my present fault of escaping only from a servitude to which I was not born, does not deserve so rigorous a sentence. “ Sir, interrupted the Vizier, I have discovered that my own rashness has exposed me to this slave ; I ought to have reflected, that an attack upon the life of another is unjust and cruel, and can never be made without endangering one’s own.” The slave was forgiven, and immediately made free.

Extraordinar

*Extraordinary Instance of FEMALE ART
in the destruction of two unfortunate
Husbands.*

DURING the reign of Lewis XIV. of France, a young gentleman named Levant, of small fortune but honourable descent, took a resolution of attending his sovereign, among others, in an expedition against Holland, in order to augment his circumstances, and add to his reputation. At the time of his departure, he had been married but three months to a young lady of great beauty, who having heard no tidings concerning him for five years, concluded he had fallen in battle. This opinion being confirmed by a letter from one of her husband's most intimate friends, who basely designed to supplant him in her affections, the lady thought herself at liberty to change her condition a second time. The pretended friend arrived soon after at Paris, and waited upon her under pretence of delivering to her a diamond ring, the property of her deceased husband, (as supposed) found means to insinuate himself into her good graces, and in a few days obtained her in marriage. The second husband not proving so agreeable in his temper and deportment as the former, (though it will appear in the sequel she had little love for either) she heartily repented of the match, and wished for a speedy
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exemption from the obligation. In a short time, however, she received a very unexpected visit from the first husband, who was entirely ignorant of his wife's second marriage; and when acquainted with it, absolutely exculpated her, and determined to abide by the decision of the law. It was accordingly decreed in court, that she should quit the second, and return to the former husband, with which she seemed heartily satisfied, insomuch that they lived together very happily, and she affected to behave towards him with the utmost tenderness and affection. This feigned disposition so conciliated his esteem, that he indulged her in the most unreasonable desires, and as he was extremely uneasy if any thing ruffled her temper, he enquired of her one day, when she put on a most dejected countenance, the cause of her anxiety, when the artful vixen thus replied: "How can I refrain from
 "concern, since I am persuaded you are now
 "in greater danger than you could be in the
 "Dutch war, as I am credibly assured my
 "second husband has taken a resolution to
 "assassinate you that he may enjoy me?
 "Hence you may easily judge, that I, who
 "love you most tenderly, cannot have a mo-
 "ment's peace either night or day, till I am
 "delivered from my too well grounded fears,
 "by the designed villainy being prevented
 "through the detection or destruction of
 "your unworthy rival." The husband was
 greatly

greatly alarmed at the information, and being enamoured to distraction of this insidious woman, resolved to execute whatever she should propose. Accordingly, having insinuated to him, that there was no other medium than that of killing or being killed, she proposed that the rival should be invited to sup with them before his departure for Burgundy, (which was at hand) and that then the affair should be accomplished. The manner of his death, as concerted between them, was first to ply him with liquor, in which a sleeping potion was to be infused, and then, having sent the servants on divers errands, to strangle him. The man accepting the invitation came according to appointment, and the murder was committed without the least noise or resistance; but the most extraordinary circumstance was the method this cunning lady took to free herself from the guilt, and involve her remaining husband in ruin and destruction. She desired her accomplice to take the body on his shoulders, in order to convey it to the river behind the garden wall, and as he was passing along artfully tacked his clothes to those of the deceased; so that when he came to the very brink of the river, she gave her loaded husband a violent push, and at one stroke sent both the dead and the living to the bottom.

It was the general opinion of the town for some time, that the two rivals were gone to

decide the quarrel in some remote place, but the bodies being found about a month after by some fishermen, the wife was taken up upon suspicion, and according to the laws of France being threatened with torture unless she confessed, she made a full discovery, and was burnt alive as a just punishment for so atrocious and complicated a crime.

The Mock Doctor.

HELVETIUS, physician in ordinary to the queen of France, had a coachman whose intellects did not very much exceed those of the beasts he drove. John, however, one day took it into his head to tell his master that he was weary of being no better than a coachman at small wages, and hard work, and that he had a great mind to be a doctor of physic, which he observed was a much more easy way of getting money ; and that possibly, with a little good luck, he might come to ride in a chariot of his own, instead of driving another's. A physician ! John, says his master, but how are you qualified ? Oh ! as to that, master, you need never fear, replied John, if you will give me some of your instructions, teach me a dozen cramp words, and let me visit a few patients with you, I'll warrant you I will do and say as you do, and I shall be bound

bound to pray for you the longest day I have to live.

Helvetius humoured the fellow's project, and told him, he would take him out the next day upon a visit to one of his patients. Accordingly John, after providing an occasional coachman, and being equipped by his master with a voluminous wig, and all the formal exterior of his new profession, went with him to a patient, with whom the plan had been concerted the night before. Being admitted, the Doctor, after the usual process of feeling the gentleman's pulse, and the like, which was heedfully remarked by the candidate, desired to know how many stools he had had, and what was the condition of them. Upon this a pan was brought to him of Chantilly Porcelain, virgin-ware out of the shop, when the Doctor gravely called for a spoon, and by way of tasting, eat two or three spoonfuls, assuring his patient that it was very laudable matter; and so in fact it was, being no other than an excellent marmelade of apricots prepared for carrying on the jest. John, whose stomach had turned at first, recovered a little at seeing his master eat so favourably. The Doctor took his fee, and they left the patient. The next day John was sent alone, where after mimicking as near as he could what his master had done on the preceding day, he came in course to the state of the stools. The pan and spoon were then produced, and John, who had re-

solved to act his part throughout, took a spoonful, and was properly affected both by the taste and smell of the contents, being real, unadulterated, fecal matter. This disconcerted John's prescription so much, that the patient pretending to be affronted, dismissed him without the consolation of a fee. John returned home cured of his ambition of being a Doctor; and requested, as a great favour, to be re-inflated on his coach-box.

A BOATSWAIN'S Contrivance to save himself from being EATEN.

WHEN the famous Dampier was making his wild searches, they happened to be out at sea, far distant from any shore, in want of all necessaries, insomuch that they began to look, not without hunger, on each other. The Boatswain was a fat, healthy, fresh fellow, and attracted the eyes of the whole crew. In such extreme necessity all ceremony was laid aside, all forms of superiority were forgot: the Captain was safe only by being carrion, and the boatswain in danger only by being worth eating. In a word, the company being unanimous, the Boatswain must be cut up. He saw their intention, and desired he might speak a few words before they proceeded; which being permitted, he spoke as follows:

“Gentlemen

“ Gentlemen sailors,

“ Far be it from me to speak for any private advantage of my own, but I should not die with a good conscience, if I did not confess to you that I am not sound. I say, gentlemen, justice, and the testimony of a good conscience, as well as love of my country, to which, I hope, you will all return, oblige me to own, that Black Kate at Deptford has made me very unsafe to eat ; and (I speak it with shame) I am afraid I should poison you.”

This speech had an excellent effect in the Boatswain's favour ; but the surgeon protested he had cured him, and, as a proof of the truth of his assertion, offered to eat the first steak of him. The Boatswain replied, (like a true orator who knew his auditors, and in hopes of gaining time) “ That he was heartily glad if he could be for their service, and he thanked the surgeon for his information. However, said he, I must inform you for your own good, that ever since my cure I have been very thirsty and dropfical ; I therefore presume it would be much better to tap me and drink me off, than eat me at once, and have no man in the ship fit to be drank.” As he was going on with his harangue, a fresh gale arose, which gave them hopes of a better repast at the nearest shore, to which they arrived the next morning. A

A Wonderful Story.

TOWARD the latter end of queen Ann's wars, captain John Beams, commander of the York merchant, arrived at Barbadoes from England. Having disembarked all his lading, which consisted chiefly of coals, the sailors, who had been employed in the dirty work, ventured into the sea to wash themselves; they had not been long in the water before a person on board spied a shark making towards them, and gave them notice of their danger; upon which they swam back, and all of them, except one man, reached the boat in safety—him the monster overtook, and gripping him by the small of the back, soon cut him asunder, and swallowed the lower part of his body: the remaining part was taken up and carried on board. The deceased had on board a dear and intimate friend, who no sooner saw the remaining part of the lifeless trunk of his much loved companion, than he vowed to make the devourer disgorge the other, or lose his life in the attempt; then plunging instantly into the sea, the shark beheld him, and made furiously towards him.—Both were equally eager, the one of his prey, the other to revenge his friend's untimely death. The moment the shark opened his rapacious jaws, his adversary dexterously diving, and grasping him with his left hand, somewhat

somewhat below the upper fins, successfully employed his knife in his right hand, giving him repeated flabs in the belly : the enraged shark, after many unavailing efforts, finding himself overmatched in his own element, endeavoured to disengage himself, sometimes plunging towards the bottom, sometimes rolling on the surface of the waves. The crew of several surrounding vessels beheld the unequal conflict, uncertain from which of the combatants the streams of blood had flowed ; till at length the shark, much weakened by the loss of blood, made towards the shore :—the sailor now flushed with the hope of victory, pushed his foe with redoubled ardour, and by the help of an ebbing tide, dragged him on shore, ripped open his bowels, and having united the severed carcase of his friend, laid both parts of the body in one hospitable grave.

The HUMOROUS COBLER.

A Candidate for a seat in parliament, who to gain a temporary popularity in a small borough, practised every mean condescension, was informed that nothing could tend more to secure his election than the winning over a certain cobbler, who, what with his relations amongst the voters, and the facetiousness
of

of his humour, had a very considerable interest. He accordingly applied to him for his favour; when the cobbler said, Kiss me, and then I'll readily talk with you. This was immediately complied with. "Now," continued "the cobbler, if for the sake of a few votes, "you would kiss the begrimed face of such a "dirty, low-lived blackguard as I am, I make "no doubt, but for a place or a pension you "would kiss any smooth courtier's backside; "so my very flabbering friend, you have no "vote of mine I promise you."

The PRAISE of LAZINESS.

[In a humorous letter to a Lady.]

YOU expect, perhaps, madam, in this, an apology for laziness; but behold a panegyric, and a panegyric in form it would be, if I was not too lazy to write one. However, buried in a well-bolstered downy elbow chair, with my legs canted over one of the arms, between whistling and yawning, I ordered my Amanuensis to set down some indigest thoughts that occurred to me towards the plan of such a work.

Exposition of the Work.

Whatever is of most advantage to all conditions, public and private, must be the most perfect

perfect scheme. That of laziness then unites in it these rare qualities :

Advantages to the Government.

A government is compleatly happy, that has a number of lazy people under it.

The truly lazy, as they have no ambition, are far from forming any cabals, or of engaging in any party : on the contrary, they make the quietest of all subjects.

Provided you do not disturb their personal tranquillity, they never criticize the measures of government. If it costs them no more than a little money, they think they have a good bargain of it. A pennyworth of ease is worth a penny.

Advantages to Society.

They are never guilty of slander ; for scarcely exercising any thought about themselves, they have none to bestow upon the affairs of their neighbours.

Their laziness is also a security for their being just : they value their ease too much to contrive or practice any wrong.

They are incapable of going through the fatigues of a law-suit ; who, therefore, would not wish to have them for relations ?

Libels and satires they never publish ; the trouble it would cost to write them saves them even

even from the imputation. Careless of their own reputation, they have no motive to attack that of others.

General reflexions, and heads of chapters.

Laziness preserves the probity of an honest man, and frustrates the designs of the dishonest retirement, which thousands give themselves up to under various pretences, is only a disguise for laziness.

Philosophy and apathy are nothing but laziness.

Constancy is laziness itself, which hates the trouble of changing.

Description of voluptuousness. Its intimate alliance with laziness.

Examination of the heart and sentiments of man. He enjoys happiness in proportion to his laziness.

Means of obtaining it.

Means of preserving it.

Picture of an eligible laziness. Criticism upon the state that is opposed to it.

Quotations from a number of excellent authors, antient and modern, who have written in praise of laziness, and of the lazy. The catalogue of those whose works implicitly form the panegyric upon laziness, would be too immense.

I enjoy all these ideas ; but am too lazy to communicate them, being wearied even to death

death with dictating this plan. I wish some charitable hand would undertake the work for the good of mankind: I shudder, however, at the thought of all the labour it would cost him.

I have the honour to be,

Madam, Yours, &c.

The Story of CLARINDA; containing many remarkable Adventures, and some useful Hints.

CLARINDA was neither born to a fortune, nor possessed of the smallest share of beauty, but in the early part of life applied herself so steadily to reading, and the improvement of the mind, that it appeared she designed to atone by the excellence of her understanding, for the defects of her person. But when she arrived to years of maturity, and became conversant with the world, either the flatteries which her wit procured her, or her natural vanity, engaged her to imagine her eyes had as much power as her understanding.

She had naturally a great inclination for poetry, and her success in one song attracted the notice of a young gentleman of very considerable fortune, who soon became enamoured of her happy talents in ballad writing.

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ing. Clarinda attributed the impression, not to her poetry but her beauty ; however, she continued to furnish him with such productions as flattered his vanity and humoured his caprice ; till at length, that she might no longer mistake the cause of her mighty influence over him, he presented her with a purse of an hundred guineas, and settled on her fifty pounds a year, in token of his regard to her poetical genius.

This greatly enhancing her opinion of her own capacity, she determined on quitting the country where she then resided, and repairing to London, the rendezvous of the gay, the young and the fair. Thus resolved, she sent a person to Cambridge (from whence she was distant but two miles) to take a place for her in the coach. It was her fortune to go up with a young student of the university, whom we shall call Urbanus, who was himself an admirer of the muses, and acquainted with most of the beaux esprits in London of either sex. Clarinda, by repeating some of her verses, and her attracting deportment, perfectly engaged the young student in her service.

Being arrived in town she took leave of her new acquaintance at the inn, having been informed before how she might send to him as soon as she was settled, which she designed to do by his advice as near Covent-Garden as possible, that being a place whither the wits generally

generally resort. Accordingly, in a few days she took a genteel lodging in Southampton-street, where, when she was fixed, Urbanus had soon notice, and as soon repaired to her abode. He gallanted her about to the female wits, and introduced all the male, whom he thought worthy of her acquaintance. It was not long before her lodgings were the daily resort of many who really had wit, and of more who desired to be thought to have it, insomuch that in the space of about six months she had ingratiated herself into the favour of many of her own sex of quality, as she knew how to flatter them exquisitely well; and the men of figure and quality, as well as those of wit, constantly paid their attendance on the ladies at her apartment. Among the rest, there was a gentleman of great fortune, who was a person of intolerable vanity, that without either parts or person set himself up as a prodigy for accomplishments both of body and mind. Clarinda determined to avail herself of these foibles, in order, if possible, to secure so valuable a prize, and as no method appeared so effectual as that of persuading him she was in love with him, she sent him a song to that effect, which pierced him through the very soul, and a mixture of vanity and compassion made him resolve to make the poetess his wife, whatever might be the consequence. The wedding-day was therefore appointed, and to make as little noise as

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possible,

possible, it was resolved that the nuptials should be celebrated at a place between thirty and forty miles distant from London.

Thus Clarinda by the force of her wit, from a state of obscurity rendered herself respected by the most sensible part of the town, and laid such a foundation for happiness in life, as nothing but the same cause could possibly destroy. She was now mistress of a reputable husband, and a very good estate, which are two necessary ingredients in the composition of a woman's felicity. They lived with tolerable satisfaction in the country for about two months; but the season of the year, and Clarinda's extreme love of conversation rendered this sequestered life very disagreeable, so that they repaired to London. and having taken an elegant house in Pall-mall, were visited by the gay and airy from all quarters of the town.

Would-be, (for that was her husband's name) though possessed of so high an opinion of himself, was of a very jealous disposition, and of consequence soon grew weary of such a promiscuous concourse of men and women as his wife Clarinda drew together. He likewise fancied that those freedoms she permitted to some of her male visitors, whom she called platonic lovers, was only a specious pretext to cover more criminal concerns, and therefore first admonished his lady, that this conduct was not agreeable to him; and when that
would

would not prevail, he flatly informed her that for the future his doors should be shut against all manner of company.

It would be tedious to recount the daily altercations which this resolution of Would-be produced: suffice it therefore to observe, that from words the surly husband proceeded to blows; from blows to a separation of beds, and from thence, in a few months, to a separation of families.

Clarinda, however, applied to Doctors Commons, and having obtained a very handsome separate maintenance, fixed herself in new lodgings, which soon became the resort of the gay and the witty.

Urbanus, her first acquaintance, had been some time out of town, and therefore ignorant of the most important revolutions of her life, especially of the unsettled and various parts of it since matrimony. He retained his love for her, and frequently expressed it; she received it as her custom was, and permitted him to be her Platonic Admirer.

Would-be, notwithstanding the separation, sometimes visited her, and happening to come at a time when Urbanus was kissing her, and she admitting his embraces with all the patience that she could a husband, the jealous madman, fired with indignation, drew his sword, and at one pass slew the the unfortunate student. Clarinda, expecting the same fate, fled out of the room, and whilst her hu-

band's rage pursued her, the house was alarmed, and Would-be taken into custody for the murder of Urbanus.

This was a melancholy effect of her follies, but the consequence was most dreadful, since she was compelled to be an evidence against her own husband, and he was cast by her evidence chiefly, the other being only circumstances.

The rash Would-be was condemned, and suffered the sentence of the law, declaring his entire aversion to Clarinda, cursing the day on which he had first seen her, and that day, above all, when he was so infatuated as to wed her.

This fatal accident struck Clarinda with some serious reflections on the dire event of her obstinacy and coquetry, so that burning all her books of Wit and Poetry, she retired into the remotest part of Wales, where contenting herself with her annuity of fifty pounds, she led a miserable life till death put an end to her troubles, affording a memorable proof, of how little consequence meer Wit is when compared with the accomplishments of a Wife.

The two NEGRO FRIENDS.

AMONG the negroes belonging to a gentleman of the island of St. Christopher's was a young woman, whom those of her own complexion looked upon as a most extraordinary beauty. There were also in the same plantation two young fellows remarkable for the comeliness of their persons, and for the steady friendship which they bore each other. It happened that both of them fell in love with the female negro abovementioned, who would have been very glad to have taken either of them for her husband, provided they could have agreed between themselves which should be the man: but they were both so passionately in love, that neither of them could think of giving her up to his rival; and at the same time so true to one another, that neither of them would think of attempting to gain her without his friend's consent. The torments of these lovers were the constant discourse of the family to which they belonged, who could not forbear observing the strange complication of passions which perplexed the hearts of the poor negroes, who often dropped expressions of the uneasiness they underwent, and how impossible it was for either of them ever to be happy.

After a long struggle between love and friendship, truth and jealousy, they one day
took

took a walk together into a wood, taking their mistress along with them; where after abundance of lamentations, they stabbed her to the heart, of which she immediately died.

A slave who was at his work, not far from the place where this tragical affair was acted, hearing the shrieks of the dying person, ran to see what was the occasion of them. He there discovered the woman lying dead upon the ground, with the two negroes, one on each side of her, kissing the dead body, weeping over it, and beating their breast in the utmost agonies of grief and despair. He immediately ran to the English family, with the news of what he had seen; who upon coming to the place saw the woman dead, and the two negroes expiring by her with wounds they had given themselves.

The SURGEON and MALEFACTOR.

IT is a custom with some surgeons who beg the bodies of condemned malefactors, to go to the jail and bargain for the carcase with the criminal himself. One of the faculty went according to custom, and was admitted to the condemned men on the morning they were to die. He communicated his business and fell into discourse with a little fellow, who refused twelve shillings, and insisted upon fifteen

fifteen for his body. An undaunted fellow who was condemned for murder, very forwardly, and like a man who was wishing to deal, told him, "Look you, Mr. Surgeon, that little dry fellow, who has been half-starved all his life, and is now half dead with fear, cannot answer your purpose. I have ever lived highly and freely, my veins are full, I have not pined in imprisonment; you see my crest swells to your knife, and after Jack-Catch has done, upon my honour you'll find me as sound as any bullock in the markets. Come, for twenty shillings I am your man."—Says the Surgeon, "Done, there's a guinea."—This witty rogue took the money, and as soon as he had it in his hand, cries, "A bite, I am to be hanged in chains."

The CRUEL OFFICER punished.

IN the reign of Queen Anne, a soldier belonging to a marching regiment which was quartered in the city of Worcester, was taken up for desertion; and being tried before a Court Martial was sentenced to be shot. The colonel and lieutenant colonel being at that time in London, the command of the regiment descended in course to the major, a man of

of a most cruel and inhuman disposition. The day on which the deserter was to be executed being arrived, the regiment, as usual on these occasions, was drawn out to see the execution.

It is the custom on these occasions for the several corporals to cast lots for this disagreeable office—and when every one expected to have seen the lots cast as usual, they were surprised to find that the major had given orders, that the prisoner should die by the hands of his own brother, who was only a private man in the same company, and who, at the time the cruel order arrived, was taking his leave of his unhappy brother, and with tears fast flowing, that express'd the anguish of his soul, was hanging, for the last time, about his neck.

On his knees did the poor fellow beg that he might not have a hand in his brother's death; and the poor prisoner, forgetting for a moment his petitions to heaven, begged to die by any hands, but those of a brother. The unrelenting officer, however, could by no means be prevailed on to revoke his cruel sentence, tho' intreated to do so by every inferior officer of the regiment; but on the contrary, he swore that he, and he only, should be the executioner, if it was merely for example sake, and to make justice appear more terrible. When much time had been wasted in fruitless endeavours to soften the rigor of this inhu-

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man sentence, the prisoner prepares to die, and the brother to be his executioner.

The major, strict to his maxims of cruelty, stands close by to see that the piece was properly loaded, which being done he directs, that the third motion of his cane shall be the signal of his discharge, and at that third motion receives (instead of the prisoner) the bullets through his own head.

The man had no sooner discharged his piece, than throwing it on the ground, he exclaimed as follows.—“ He that can give no mercy, no mercy let him receive. Now I submit! I had rather die this hour for this death, than live an hundred years and take away the life of my brother.” No person seemed to be sorry for this unexpected piece of justice on the inhuman major, and the man being ordered into custody, many gentlemen present, who had been witnesses of the whole affair, joined to intreat the officers to defer the execution of the other brother till the queen’s pleasure should be known.

This request being complied with, the City Chamber that very night drew up a very feeling and pathetic address to her majesty, setting forth the unparalleled cruelty and character of the deceased officer, and humbly intreating her majesty’s pardon for both the brothers.

The petition was granted, the brothers were pardoned and discharged from their service

service in the army, and the queen received from the city a most dutiful and most grateful address of thanks for her well-timed mercy.

INDOLENCE *Characterized.*

[By Fenelon, Archbishop of Cambray, and author of *Telemachus*.]

INDOLENCE deprives men of all that activity which should call forth their virtues, and make them illustrious. An indolent man is scarce a man; he is half a woman. He wills, and unwills, in a breath. He may have good intentions of discharging a duty, while that duty is at a distance. Let it but approach, let him view the time of action near, and down drop his hands in languor. What can be done with such a man? He is absolutely good for nothing. Business tires him, reading fatigues him, the service of his country interferes too much with his pleasures, and even attendance at Court, though for the sake of advancement, is too great a constraint upon him. His life should be passed on a bed of down. If he is employed, moments are as hours to him; if he is amused, hours are as moments. In general, his whole time eludes him; he lets it glide unheeded like water

water under a bridge. Ask him what he has done with his morning? He knows nothing about it, for he has lived without one reflection upon his existence. He slept as long as it was possible for him to sleep; ; dressed slowly; amused himself in chat with the first person that called upon him; and took several turns in his room till dinner. Dinner is served up; and the evening will be spent as unprofitably as the morning, and his whole life as this day. Once more such a wretch is good for nothing. It is only pride that can support him in a life so worthless, and so much beneath the character of a man.

A ROBBERY strangely discovered.

A Young gentleman from the university, on paying a visit to a lady, a relation of his in the country, found her in great affliction for the loss of a diamond ring of considerable value. She was positive that some of the servants must have got it, but which to lay it to she did not know. The young gentleman, on hearing the circumstances, undertook the recovery of it, provided the lady would humour the stratagem he proposed to make use of. She readily consented. At dinner, therefore, the discourse turning upon the loss, the scholar boasted so much of his skill in the black-art,

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that

that ~~he~~ she, as they had previously agreed, desired him to exert it for the discovery of the person who had stolen her ring. He promised her he would; and after dinner ordered a white cock to be got (no other would do) and a kettle to be placed on a table in the hall. The cock he told them was to be put under the kettle; and all the servants, one after another, were to touch it, and that as soon as the guilty person should lay his hand upon it, the cock would crow three times. Every thing being thus prepared with the greatest solemnity, the young gentleman began the scene. The hall was darkened, and the procession began. As soon as they had every one declared that they had fulfilled the direction and touched the cock, the light was restored, and the gentleman examined every one of their hands, and found them all smutted, except one who had taken care not to touch the kettle, and was beginning to hug himself for having outwitted the conjurer. Upon this circumstance the gentleman charged him closely with the theft; he could not deny it, and on his knees asked pardon; which the lady, on his restoring the ring, granted him.

The Rival WIVES:

A Nobleman of one of the best families in this kingdom was blessed in marriage with a lady, who by the benevolence of a kind providence, was the repository of all the qualities of body and mind, that are desirable by one that would find friendship and felicity in a wife ; but it so happened, that in respect to her, affection and good manners were wanting in his lordship ; but she by an happy education, being mistress of her duty towards God, never, not under the severest usage, slackened that obedience which she had religiously contracted to pay to her lord.

In process of time a separation was suggested to his lordship, who took a speedy occasion of signifying it to his lady, who at first hearing ceased to be mistress of herself ; but a little recollection restored her the life again, which this severity had taken from her ; and after some tears had lessened the weight that was upon her spirits, she threw herself at the feet of her lord, and said, “ I deserve a discipline from heaven, and it may be the will of God that I should undergo this punishment ; but it does not appear to me that I have deserved it at the hand of your lordship ; but since I cannot doubt of its being your desire, to which it has been the care of my life to pay an exact conformity, to this,

“ the most unwelcome reproof that ever did
 “ attend me, my compliance is ready, and in
 “ respect to time, your lordship shall be ob-
 “ served.”

Separation succeeded, and my lord allowed her in proportion to her quality, for a time ; but at length he shortened that, commanded her to retire from her acquaintance, and to renounce her quality, that it might not be known in her new neighbourhood who she was : the poor lady, who had read many hard lessons in the school of obedience, resigned without complaint to the will of her tyrant ; but my lord, by clipping her allowance in a gradual way, deprived her of the convenience of a servant, and in a short time a report of her being dead circulated through the town.

When common fame had killed her, my lord mourned for her in form, and with decency ; but assured her at the same time by the hand that conveyed her quarterage, that he would totally restrain, even that, if ever she offered to rise against this report : obedience she very well understood, and observed, so that no doubt was made of her death.

In some time after a gentleman gave my lord an invitation to a supper : an accident led him through the kitchen, where he saw a lass that immediately struck his fancy : his passions rose and brought him back to her, and a salute was attempted ; which she resisted with so much good manners as gained upon him.

him to a degree that kindled a desire of making her his wife, and he immediately proposed it to her; to which she said, "My lord, the
 " vast disproportion that is betwixt me and
 " your lordship, with the stain that must accrue to you, renders it almost impossible for
 " me to believe it your intention; and I trust
 " that the goodness of God will screen me
 " from the sin and disgrace of an immodest
 " action." The good sense, the simplicity and candour of the woman strengthened his propensity, and he ardently replied, that he intended nothing worse to her than marriage, which, if she consented, should be consummated within a week.

The ceremony passed in a few days, and her deportment, graced with piety and profound humility, attracted the esteem even of those that knew her not; and the report of the former lady's being dead never met with contradiction; so that this was every where received for the real lady, and was visited and respected by all the ladies of quality.

After this marriage my lord totally neglected his former lady, who for a time had no food but what came from a credit that was given her by a generous and compassionate tradesman.

The neglect of my lord continued, the debt swelled to the sum of ten pounds, and my lord's care being wanted in the payment of it, the good lady went to the creditor, and said,

“ Sir, I am largely indebted to you, and my
 “ next care is, how to discharge my obliga-
 “ tion; mine is not a common case, and un-
 “ der a full assurance of secrecy on your part,
 “ it is that I tell you, that I am the wife of a
 “ nobleman, who cohabits with another wo-
 “ man, and, by neglect, has reduced me to
 “ the last extremity of want; but my greatest
 “ concern is for you, and your advice is re-
 “ quired in the case.”

“ Madam, said he, permit me to arrest you,
 “ and suffer yourself to be ill-used by the offi-
 “ cers under the window of your lord; but
 “ assure yourself that it should be my choice
 “ to lose my debt, rather than you should have
 “ ill treatment; and this should not be my
 “ advice, had I not a view in it of doing some
 “ service to your ladyship.”

The good lady consented: the officers seized her: and as they was leading her over Lincoln's-inn-fields, against my lord's lodgings, the poor lady refused to go any further, upon which the officers, in their merciless way, began to drag her, tore her clothes, pulled her hair about her shoulders: the people gathered, a great noise ensuing, the reputed lady heard it, and ran immediately to a window of the dining-room, out of which she saw this afflicted object: she ordered her woman down stairs, to enquire into the meaning of that disorder; who returned with this answer, that it was a poor gentlewoman under an arrest for ten pounds,

pounds, and the officers were leading her to prison. "O stop them, said the lady, I'll pay the debt; bid one of the officers come up." When the officer came up, "Why are you so cruel, said she, to a poor gentlewoman?" She is our prisoner, said he, and because the debt is not paid, the plaintiff has ordered her to the Marshalsea; she refuses to go, and we are obliged to use violence, for it is our duty to carry her over. "Here is your debt and charges, said the lady, and let your prisoner come to me."

When the officers were discharged, she turned to the distressed lady, and said, "Madam, you have the look and manners of a gentlewoman, which aggravates my concern for your deplorable condition. Pray tell me who you are, and how I may convey to you such relief as you need in time to come. Madam, said the poor lady, your charity will be very welcome to me, but I should be glad if your ladyship would decline the knowledge of my person. No, madam, said she, I must know who you are, for I would relieve you according to your quality. Madam, said the poor lady, it seems a very hard fate that a person of your virtue and liberality should undergo the affliction that I am afraid will be given you by the account which you require. Why, madam, said the reputed lady, should it give any other concern, than that which is a debt from me to every

“ every object ? Madam, said the poor lady,
 “ it too nearly concerns yourself. Nay then,
 “ said the other, I demand it as my right. If
 “ you will know, said the good lady, I am to
 “ tell you that I am the lady C——n ; and
 “ have a right in your lord before you, which
 “ I am persuaded you are ignorant of ; and
 “ if my lord had continued to me but the bare
 “ conveniences of life, his character should not
 “ have been darkened by my complaints ; for
 “ I know that any resentment on my part
 “ would not prevent the sin in my lord, and
 “ on your part there is no guilt contracted,
 “ for the report of my death is your justifica-
 “ tion in all that is past ; and the will of my
 “ lord being the rule of that part of my action,
 “ which relates to him, I was determined to a
 “ compliance till absolute necessity should force
 “ my intention.”

“ Madam, said the reputed lady, I will
 “ know the truth of this matter before I sleep ;
 “ and do assure you, that if it shall appear to
 “ me as you say, I shall not only renounce the
 “ bed of my lord, but do the best offices I can
 “ towards your reconciliation. I expect my
 “ lord every moment, and it may not be well
 “ for you to be here at his coming in ; but let
 “ me know where you are, that the good offices
 “ I intend you may not be lost ; and it is my
 “ request that you would accept of this purse,
 “ as you will find immediate sustenance from
 “ the contents of it.”

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The poor lady withdrew, and my lord came home in a very little time, who finding the reputed lady in great affliction, asked the meaning of that disorder. “ My lord, said she, a “ strange accident has brought a thing to my “ knowledge, upon which I am to ask you a “ question, and must conjure you to answer it, “ as you will answer it at the great tribunal. “ Is your first lady living ?” After some pause, said he, “ What have you heard of her, Ma- “ dam ?” “ My lord, said she, it is not an “ hour since I paid a debt to rescue her from “ the sheriffs officers, who had torn her cloaths “ and used the greatest rudeness, because she “ refused to go to prison ; and from her own “ mouth I extorted an acknowledgment of her “ quality and present condition ; but it came “ from her with a regret that seemed to regard “ the quiet and credit of your lordship. So “ that from this day I must forbear your “ bed ; but shall never be wanting in the best “ services I can contribute, and shall have no “ enjoyment till you cohabit with your lady “ in comfort.”

She renounced his bed, and prevailed with him to receive his lady ; and by her good offices, their peace was preserved till the death of my lady. After which, my lord proposed marriage to her again ; and she then became his lawful wife.

My lord settled 400l. a year upon her, which was the most his estate could then
 bear ;

bear ; out of which, in honour to the family, she gave 300l. to a suffering branch of it, and retired to a cheap country, that the 100l. which remained to her, might carry her with decency to the grave; and a few years ago she ended a life that edified all that had the blessing of her acquaintance.

The BOUNTIFUL FROLIC.

S OON after the conclusion of the late peace, the late duke of Montague, had observed that a middle aged man, in something like a military dress, of which the lace was much tarnished, and the cloth worn threadbare, appeared at a certain hour in the park, walking to and fro in the Mall, with a kind of mournful solemnity, or ruminating by himself on one of the benches, without taking any more notice of the gay crowd that was moving before him, than of so many emmets on an ant-hill, or atoms dancing in the sun.

This man the duke singled out as likely to be a fit object for a frolic. He began therefore by making some enquiry concerning him, and soon learnt that he was an unfortunate poor officer, who having laid out his whole stock in the purchase of a commission, had

had behaved with great bravery in the war, in hopes of preferment, but upon the conclusion of the peace, had been reduced to starve upon half pay. This the duke thought a favourable circumstance for his purpose, but he learnt, upon further enquiry, that the captain having a wife and several children, had been reduced to the necessity of sending them into Yorkshire, whither he constantly remitted them one moiety of his half pay, which would not subsist them nearer the metropolis; and reserved the other moiety to keep himself upon the spot, where alone he could hope to obtain a more advantageous situation. These particulars afforded a new scope for the duke's genius, and he immediately began his operations.

After some time, when every thing had been prepared, he watched an opportunity, when the captain was sitting alone on one of the benches in the Park, buried in speculation, to send his gentleman to him with his compliments, and an invitation to dinner the next day. The duke having placed himself at a convenient distance, saw his messenger approach without being perceived, and begin to speak without being heard; he saw his intended guest start at length from his reverie, like a man frightened out of a dream, and gaze with a foolish look of wonder and perplexity at the person that accosted him, without seeming to comprehend what he said, or to believe

believe his senses when he did. In short, he saw with the utmost satisfaction all that could be expected, in the looks, behaviour, and attitude of a man addressed in so abrupt and unaccountable a manner; and as the sport depended upon the man's sensibility, he discovered so much of that quality on striking the first stroke, that he promised himself success beyond his former hopes. He was told, however, that the captain returned thanks for the honour intended him, and would wait upon his grace at the time appointed. When he came, the duke received him with particular marks of civility, and taking him aside with an air of great secrecy and importance, told him that he had desired the favour of his company to dine chiefly upon the account of a lady, who had long had a tender regard for him, and had expressed a particular desire to be in his company, which her situation had made it impossible for her to accomplish, without the assistance of a friend; that having learnt these particulars by accident, he had taken the liberty of bringing them together, and added, that he thought such an act of civility, whatever might be the opinion of the world, could be no impeachment of his honour. During this discourse the duke enjoyed the profound astonishment, and various changes of confusion that appeared in the captain's face, who, after he had a little recovered himself, began a speech, with great solemnity,

solemnity, in which the duke perceived he was labouring to insinuate, in the best manner he could, that he doubted whether he was not imposed upon, and whether he ought not to resent it; and therefore to put an end to his difficulties at once, the duke laid his hand upon his breast, and very devoutly swore, that he told him nothing that he did not believe upon good evidence to be true.

When word was brought that dinner was served, the captain entered the dining-room with great curiosity and wonder; but his wonder was unspeakably increased, when he saw at the table his own wife and children. The duke had begun his frolic by sending for them out of Yorkshire, and had as much, if not more, astonished the lady, than he had her husband, to whom he took care she should have no opportunity to send a letter.

It is much more easy to conceive than to describe a meeting so sudden, unexpected and extraordinary; it is sufficient to say that it afforded the duke the highest entertainment, who at length, with much difficulty, got his guests quietly seated at his table, and persuaded them to fall to without thinking either of yesterday or to-morrow. It happened that soon after dinner was over, word was brought to the duke, that his lawyer attended about some business by his grace's order. The duke, willing to have a short truce with the various enquiries of the captain about his

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family,

family, ordered the lawyer to be introduced, who pulling out a deed that the duke was to sign, was directed to read it, with an apology to the company for the interruption. The lawyer accordingly began to read, when, to compleat the adventure, and the confusion and astonishment of the poor captain and his wife, the deed appeared to be a settlement, which the duke had made upon them, of a genteel sufficiency for life. Having gravely heard the instrument read, without appearing to take any notice of the emotion of his guests, he signed and sealed it, and delivered it into the captain's hand, desiring him to accept it without compliments, "For, says he, I assure you, it is the last thing I would have done, if I had thought I could have employed my money or my time more to my satisfaction any other way."

The HAUNTED-HOUSE, *or beautiful*
APPARITION.

A YOUNG gentleman, going down from London to the west of England, to the house of a worthy gentleman, to whom he had the honour to be related; it happened that the gentleman's house at that time was full, by reason of a kinswoman's wedding that had lately been kept there; he therefore told the
young

young gentleman that he was very glad to see him, and that he was very welcome to him; but, said he, I know not how I shall do for a lodging for you; for my cousin's marriage has not left a room free, but one, and that is haunted; you shall have a very good bed, and all other accommodations. Sir, replied the young gentleman, you will very much oblige me, in letting me be there, for I have often coveted to be in a place that was haunted. The gentleman, very glad that his kinsman was so well pleased with his accommodation, ordered the chamber to be got ready, and a good fire to be made in it, it being winter time. When bed-time came, the young gentleman was conducted up into his chamber, which, besides a good fire, was furnished with all suitable accommodations; and having recommended himself to the divine protection, he goes to bed, where having kept some time awake, and finding no disturbance, he fell asleep; out of which he was awaked, about three o'clock in the morning, by the opening of the chamber door, and the coming in of something in the appearance of a young woman, having a night-dress on her head, and only her shift on; but he had no perfect view of her, for his candle was burnt out. And, though there was a fire in the room, yet it gave not light enough to see her distinctly. But this unknown visitant going to the chimney, took the poker,

and stirred up the fire, by the flaming light whereof he could discern the appearance of a young gentlewoman more distinctly ; but whether it was flesh and blood, or an airy phantom, he knew not. This lovely appearance having stood some time before the fire as if to warm her, at last walked two or three times about the room, and came to the bedside, where having stood a little while, she took up the bed-cloaths, and went into bed, pulling the bed-cloaths upon her again, and lay very quietly. The young gentleman was a little startled at this unknown bed-fellow, and, upon her approach, lay on the further side of the bed, not knowing whether he had best rise or not. At last, lying very still, he perceived his bed-fellow to breathe, by which, guessing her to be flesh and blood, he drew nearer to her, and, taking her by the hand, found it warm, and that it was no airy phantom, but substantial flesh and blood ; and finding she had a ring on her finger, he took it off unperceived ; the gentlewoman being all this while asleep, he let her lie without disturbing her, she flung off the bed-cloaths again, and getting up, walked three or four times about the room, as she had done before ; and then standing some time before the door, opened it, went out, and shut it after her. The young gentleman, perceiving by this in what manner the room was haunted, rose up, and locked the door on the inside, and

and then lay down again, and slept till morning; at which time the master of the house came to him to know how he did, and whether he had seen any thing or not? He told him, there was an apparition appeared to him, but begged the favour of him that he would not urge him to say any thing further, till the whole family were all together. The gentleman complied with his request, telling him, as long as he was well, he was very well satisfied. The desire the whole family had to know the issue of this affair, made them dress with more expedition than usual; so that there was a general assembly of the gentlemen and ladies before eleven o'clock, not one of them being willing to appear in her dishabille. When they were all got together in the great hall, the young gentleman told them, that he had one favour to desire of the ladies before he could say any thing, and that was, to know whether any of them had lost a ring? The young gentlewoman from whose finger it was taken, having missed it all the morning, and not knowing how she lost it, was glad to hear of it again, and readily owned she wanted a ring, but whether lost or mislaid, she knew not. The young gentleman asked her if that was it, giving it into her hand, which she acknowledged to be hers, and thanking him, he turned to the gentleman, the master of the house; "Now, Sir, said he, "I can assure you, taking the gentlewoman by

“ the hand, this is the lovely spirit by which
 “ your chamber is haunted.” And there-
 upon repeated what is related. I want words
 to express the confusion the young gentlewo-
 man seemed to be in at this relation, who de-
 clared herself perfectly ignorant of all that he
 had said ; but believed it might be so, because
 of the ring, which she perfectly well remem-
 bered she had on when she went to bed, and
 knew not how she had lost it. This relation
 gave the whole company a great deal of diver-
 sion : for, after all, the father declared, that
 since his daughter had already gone to bed
 to his kinsman, it should be his fault if he did
 not go to bed to his daughter, he being will-
 ing to bestow her upon him, and give her a
 good portion : this generous offer was so ad-
 vantageous to the young gentleman, that he
 could by no means refuse it ; and his late bed-
 fellow, hearing what her father had said, was
 easily prevailed upon to accept him for her
 husband.

MUTUAL FORGIVENESS.

A LADY of quality in Italy, being on her
 death-bed, bethought herself of asking
 her husband pardon for a grievous offence ;
 but, said she, you must not know what it is
 'till you have sworn that you will forgive me.
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Her husband accepted the condition, upon which she confessed to him that she had wronged his bed. The husband, in his turn, begged her to forgive him any injury he might have done her: the dying lady replied, that his goodness and generosity left her no right to refuse him any thing: "Then," said he, my dear, I had discovered the trick "you had plaid me, and have taken care to "poison you for it."

Two THIEVES odly discovered.

TWO young thieves, in the disguise of country girls knocked one night at the door of a farmer, who lived in a village composed of straggling houses, and was reputed rich. They begged the liberty of lying in his barn, pretending they were going to a distant village, but being benighted and fatigued could not proceed on their journey. The farmer, though he had but a maid-servant in the house, suspecting nothing from their dress, opened the door to them, and as the weather was cold and damp, charitably invited them to warm themselves at the fire. When they came in and were set down, something in their voice and manner gave him the first suspicion, but not daring to satisfy himself with his hands, he only stood on his guard, and

and bethought himself of the following stratagem to discover their sex. He took some nuts, and beginning to crack them, threw each of his guests a handful into their laps, when the motion they made let him know what they were; for the women, when any thing is thrown to them in that manner, open their legs, but the men close theirs. The farmer pretending some business, went out and alarmed his neighbours, who soon entered the house well armed, and secured the rogues.

A WAGER whimsically won.

JEMMY Spiller, comedian, of facetious memory, going to Epsom during the time of the races, met a gentleman of his acquaintance who was returning to town, because there was not a bed to be had at Epsom at any price, nor even stabling for his horse. After the first compliments were over, the gentleman enquired to what place Mr. Spiller was bound; who answering, to Epsom; the gentleman told him, that the town was so full, that it would be utterly impossible to get lodging either for himself or his horse, on any terms whatever. I'll lay you a bottle and bird, cries Spiller, that I get lodging for both, be the town ever so full; and that too in one of the best inns in the place. Done, says the gentleman;

gentleman : I take your word about the matter, and the first time we meet in town we will make ourselves merry over the fruits of this night's adventure : and thus they parted ; the gentleman towards London, and Spiller for Epsom.—As soon as he came there, he rode directly into an inn-yard, and called for the hostler, who paying no regard to what he said, Mr. Spiller gets off his horse, and leads him into a stable, which was already extremely crowded with horses, so that none of them could possibly lie down. Here Spiller found the hostler, whom he addresses as follows ; “ Here, my friend, take care of this horse, and, do you hear ? let him be well rubbed down.” “ Sir, answered the hostler, you see that the stable is already quite full, here is no room for him.” “ Well, well, cries Spiller, do so, if you please, rub him down well, and give him some hay now, and about an hour hence give him some corn.” “ Sir, cries the hostler, I tell you again, that there is no room, nor will I take charge of your horse.” “ Well, well, replies our merry comedian, if you think that will be better for the horse, do so ;—ay, ay, put a little bran among his corn, with all my heart.” “ I tell you again, cries the fellow, roaring as loud as possible in his ear, I'll take no charge of your horse, and if you don't take him away, I'll turn him out of the stable, and let him stray to the devil, if he will.” “ Why, ay, cries Spiller,

Spiller, that's true enough, thou seemest to be a civil, good-natured, honest young fellow—and I'll leave it entirely to thy management, but be sure don't let my horse be changed." So leaving the horse in the fellow's care, he goes directly into the bar, and calls for a pint of red port: the mistress of the house said, she was sorry she had not a place to ask him to sit down; but he, not willing to understand her, cries out, "No matter, no matter, madam; 'tis all one to me,—if your red wine is not good, let me have a pint of white." By this time the hostler had informed his mistress what a deaf man she had to deal with, and they had agreed, as the likeliest means to get rid of him, to let him alone, and give him nothing that he called for, either to eat or drink. Mr. Spiller was now reduced to the necessity of shifting for a supper, as well as he could, wherefore he watched his opportunity of following some of the servants, whom he observed to carry several dishes of hot meat into a room, where about twenty gentlemen were going to supper together. As soon as he came into the room, he pulled off his hat, and hanging it upon a peg, he stood there as mute as a fish. At length, one of the company observing that he was a stranger, demanded, "What does the gentleman want?" On this they all stared at him for some time, but no body claiming any knowledge of him, one of them said to him, "Sir,
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we are a select company, do you want any body, pray?" "No ceremony with me, replies Spiller, I beg, gentlemen, that you will not disturb yourselves upon my account, I can sit any where." The servants now observing him, informed the company that he was so deaf that they would not be able to make him hear a single word, if they talked to him for a month. On which one of the company observed, that he looked like an inoffensive gentleman, and as he was deaf, he could take no exceptions to any thing that was said, and that it was therefore better to let him stay. This proposal meeting with general approbation, they all sat down to supper, after which, and about an hour devoted to drinking, Spiller got up, and with great ceremony thanked them all round for their good company, and threw down a shilling for his share. On which one of the company roared out, "Zounds, Sir! what do you mean by a shilling? Why six shillings a head, will hardly pay the reckoning." "Nay, nay, gentlemen, cries Spiller, it does not signify making a multitude of words, for, upon my honour, I will be my shilling, if you were to talk till to-morrow; therefore, no apologies, gentlemen; I scorn to sponge upon any body." After some stir, they found it was but in vain to talk to him, so they were forced to be content with a shilling, or have nothing.

Spiller

Spiller now made the best of his way to the kitchen, and watching his opportunity, followed one of the chambermaids, whom he observed to go up stairs with a warming-pan of coals. The girl had not seen him, till he came into the room as she was warming the bed with a——“What is this the room that I am to lie in, child?” “No, Sir, cries the girl, in the utmost surprise, this bed is for two gentlemen, who are just coming into the room, and has been hired for them above this month.” “Very well, my dear, says Spiller, I like it extremely well; and I hope the sheets are thoroughly aired? But where’s my night cap?” “At the devil, quoth the girl, for ought I know, and I wish you were there too—but hang your deaf head, I’ll have your neck broke down stairs presently.” So saying, away runs the girl, to inform her mistress, and the two gentlemen what had befel her. “Madam, cries she, there is that cursed dunny man that has plagued the whole house so, has followed me sily into the room where I was warming the bed for the two gentlemen, and I cannot for my life get him down again.”

On this intelligence the mistress of the house and the gentlemen whose room Spiller had made free with, ran up stairs as fast as possible: but when they came to the door, they, to their great disappointment, found it both locked and bolted; besides which, our
cautious

cautious traveller had drawn a large chest of draws against it, placed a great wainscot table upon the drawers and several chairs upon the table. No remedy now remains but to burst open the door ; but this proved a task rather too difficult for them : so, after eight or ten fruitless blows against it, they stood to listen whether they could learn what he was about ; and Spiller, guessing the cause of their sudden silence, began to talk to himself, (but loud enough for them to hear him) as follows—
 “ These public inns are sometimes very dangerous places, and a man cannot be too secure in them. But though I have the misfortune to have lost my hearing, I think they cannot easily make their way through that strong door and all those heavy things which I have placed against it; or if they should, I am sure they can want nothing but to rob and murder me.” When they had heard this, the hostess gravely asked them what they thought of this affair ? One of the gentlemen, being a practitioner of the law, replies,— “ Although he had no right to the room, yet, as this is a public inn, and he is in possession of the room, to break open the door upon him, would be such an assault, as I should not care to be concerned in for a hundred pounds.” This speech of the lawyer’s determined the matter, and they left Spiller in quiet possession of his lodging.

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In the morning, our hero being mounted on his horse, desired the lady to bring him a glass of brandy ; which being complied with, he drank to her health, and thanked her for the good usage he had met with. During this short space, the lady having occasion to break wind, and not dreaming that he could be informed of the report, she stood not upon ceremony, but let fly with the voice of a cannon. At this salute Spiller cries out, " Well said, madam, by heaven 'twas a rouzer! I hope you are better, madam:—I think I never heard such a banging F——t in my life." " O curse ye, cried the enraged hostess, is this you that was deaf all night, and can hear a F——t in the morning?" To which Mr. Spiller, turning his horse's head about, only replied, " None, madam, so deaf as those who will not hear."

The IMPOSTORS. A Tale.

[By Don MANUEL, Prince of SPAIN.]

VULGAR errors maintain their ground, because men have not spirit enough to detect them. It is common for us to praise or condemn against our own conviction ; and to adopt idle opinions, lest we appear to have
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less taste and discernment than those who invent or propagate them. Imposture, however, has but its day, and perhaps it may be a long one ; but it must give way at last, and truth will shine out with redoubled lustre.

Three sharpers, having found means to be introduced to a king, told him that they could weave a brocade of exquisite workmanship ; and of so rare a property, that it would be invisible to any person who was either base-born, dishonoured by his wife, or had been guilty of any villainy. The king, desirous to possess so great a rarity, gave them a kind reception, and allotted them a palace to carry on the manufacture. He furnished them with money, gold, silver, silk, and all other materials. They fixed up their looms, and reported that they were employed all day upon the web. After some time, one of them waited upon the king, and acquainted him that the work was begun, and that the brocade would be the most beautiful in the world, as his majesty might be convinced, if he would condescend to come and see it alone. The king, to prove the reality of their pretensions, instead of going himself, sent his chamberlain, but without dropping any hint of the danger of an imposition. The chamberlain went ; but when the weavers told him the property of the brocade, he had not courage enough to say that he did not see it, but told the king that the work

went on, and that the piece would be of unparalleled beauty. The king sent another nobleman, who, from the same motive made the same report. After that he sent many others, who all declared that they had seen the piece. At length the king went himself, and upon his entrance, observed that all the weavers were diligently employed, and that their whole conversation turned upon the success of their work, one saying, "here is a noble foliage!" another, "what a grand design!" a third, "how beautiful is this colour!" But as he could see nothing all this time except the loom, and as he could not suspect the report which had been brought him by so many courtiers without any variation, he was struck to the heart, and began to doubt of the legitimacy of his own birth. However, he thought it most prudent to disguise his sentiments; and when he returned to court, he began to express himself highly pleased with the goodness and beauty of this master-piece of art. At the end of three days, he sent the steward of his household, who, that he might not lose his honour, praised the work even more extravagantly than the king had done. This redoubled the king's vexation; and he and all his courtiers remained in the utmost doubt and perplexity, no one daring to confess, that this famous piece was a non-entity to him. In this state the affair continued, till upon occasion of a great

great festival, some courtiers pressed his majesty to have a robe made of this silk in honour of the day. When the weavers came to the presence-chamber, and were acquainted with the king's purpose, they insisted that none could make up the brocade so well as themselves, pretended that they had brought it with them curiously wrapped up, and busied themselves as if they were unfolding it. They also took measure of his majesty, handled their scissars, and practised all the motions of persons busy in cutting out. On the festival-day they returned, pretended they had brought the robe, made as if they were trying it on, and at length told his majesty that it fitted and adorned him beyond imagination. The king, credulous and confounded, walked down stairs, mounted his horse, and began the solemn cavalcade, in which he was to shew himself to his people; who having heard, that he who did not see the brocade must be a villain, a bastard, or a cuckold, unanimously declared, that they saw it, and extolled the magnificence of it. At length a Moor, who belonged to the king's stables, could not help crying out, "The king is in his shirt, the king is naked." "The Ice was now broke." The next person to him said the same, and the confession of not seeing this imaginary brocade was soon made by every mouth; till at last the king himself, and all his courtiers, encouraged by the multitude, divested them-

selves of their fears, and ventured to own the deception. Upon this, orders were given to apprehend the sharpers; but they had very wisely taken care of themselves, and made off with the money, gold, silver, silk, and other valuable materials, with which the king had supplied them. Thus many erroneous opinions prevail in the world, from the dread of incurring the censure of singularity, though that singularity should be ever so reasonable.

The PENITENT. An Oriental Tale.

IN the neighbourhood of Damascus lived a gardener, whose name was Abdulla-cauder: his only possession was a small garden, and its produce his only subsistence: though it barely supplied him with the necessities of life, yet he murmured not; thankful for the little he had, the much he wanted gave him no regret. He prayed fervently at the stated hours prescribed by the prophet, repeated his Bismillah duly, and carefully observed the appointed seasons for ablution.

One day a Dervis stopped at the door of his cottage, and begged a little refreshment: the charitable Abdulla-cauder, with great cheerfulness, set before him some dried figs, and a jar of milk. The Dervis, after his repast, insisted on Abdulla-cauder's acceptance of a
mark

mark of his gratitude, and throwing down a purse suddenly disappeared.

When Abdullcauder opened the purse, he found in it ninety-nine chequins in gold, the sight of which dazzled and confounded him. He now began to have an idea of the value of money, and all his care was to make the ninety-nine chequins an hundred. This point was soon gained; but his desires increasing with his possessions, he continued to employ his stock, and succeeded beyond his hopes: he removed into the city, enlarged his dealings, and by industrious perseverance acquired an immense estate.

But the desire of wealth took full possession of his heart: he grew more languid in his devotions, and more careless in the observation of the external duties of his religion, 'till at length he lost the sense of divine favour.

Thus after many years affluence and splendor, a severe sickness warned him of the approach of the angel of death. Remorse for his ingratitude to heaven, now deeply touched his heart. His contrition was lasting and sincere. He looked on all his gain as loss, and all his possessions as the snare of his soul. He sent for a Codgee, and made his will, in which, after providing generously for his relations, he left the remainder of his fortune to charitable uses; and inserted a clause, that as soon as he was dead, his corpse should ignominiously

ignominiously be dragged on a hurdle, thrice round the town, preceded by a cryer, who should proclaim with a loud voice: "This is the carcase of the ungrateful wretch, who in adversity remembered God, but in his prosperity forgot him."

The CIRCLE of HUMAN LIFE.

THE seven stages of man, from the first dawn of life, to the gates of death, are thus described by Gratian, under the influence of the seven planets.

Childhood is governed by the Moon, and with her influences receives her imperfections. Its light is faint and watery, without heat enough to produce distinct ideas. It is changeable too, and neither knows what angers or what appeases it. Yielding like wax to all impressions, and mouldable as paste, it passes gradually from the darkness of total ignorance, to a twilight of apprehension.

From ten to twenty Mercury succeeds to the charge, inspiring that docility with which the boy takes the learning that is given him, and too often that which he will wish to unlearn. He rises in the school, and fills his understanding with truth or falsehood, as chance determines the place of his education.

At

At twenty Venus takes the sceptre and reigns with tyranny till thirty, making cruel war against the youth, breathing unto him her hottest fires, and feasting his imagination with ideas of gallantry and love.

At thirty the Sun rises, and diffuses that light and heat, which warms and irradiates the meridian man, and makes him pant for worth, fame, and distinction. He undertakes honourable employments with spirit, becomes the solar orb to his family and country, and illuminates, ripens and perfects every thing.

At forty Mars owns him for his subject, infuses into him courage rightly tempered, and gives him command in the field. He is punctilious, mettlesome, haughty, fierce, and boisterous; apt to quarrel, and ready to repel or revenge an injury.

At fifty Jupiter succeeds the lord of his ascendant, conferring state and sovereignty. Man is now master of his actions, he speaks, and acts with authority, does not take it well to be controuled by others, but aspires after universal dominion; takes his resolutions upon himself, and executes his own suggestions. In this stage reason and virtue are triumphant.

At sixty, the melancholy Saturn makes it night with man; his morning returns no more; but disease and sullenness succeed. He sees his own end near, and he wishes that the world may end with him. He lives tired by,
and

and tiring every body, peevish and snarling like an old cur, gnawing the present and licking over the past. Languid and faltering in his speech, slow to undertake, and ineffectual in his endeavours, sordid and narrow in his expences, disgustful in his person, careless of his dress, destitute of sensibility, complaining at all hours and of all things. Thus he lives on till seventy, and may perhaps sometimes languish till eighty; but from thenceforward all is pain and misery, not life but living death.

After the expiration of the reign of Saturn, the Moon resumes her influence over his second childhood. Now returns the drivelling, tottering, helpless condition of infancy, with all the pains of decrepitude. His time is come round like a wheel to the same point; and ending as he began, he may be figured by the serpent biting his tail, ingenious hieroglyphic of the circle described by human life.

The Water of FOLLY. An oriental Tale.

THE sage Aboul-casem, having discovered by his skill in astrology, that all the water of the town where he dwelt would fall the next year under the influence of such a strange planet, that whoever drank of it would

would become foolish; resolved to exempt himself from the common disaster, and proposed great pleasure and honour from being the only wise man in the town. Accordingly he provided a reservoir, which he filled with a sufficient quantity of the present year's water, that he might be in no necessity of drinking that of the fatal year. This prediction was at length verified, and the first appearances of the universal folly gave him great delight; but folly not being of a nature to amuse long, he soon grew weary of so inhuman a pleasure. He soon found himself deprived of all the joys and conveniences of society. No creature could give him a reasonable answer. He asked one, what o'clock it was, who told him, that corn was at two sequins a bushel. He enquired what news of another; who answered, that salt was an excellent thing to butter fish with. He tried others, and found their replies equally remote from the question, which made him almost as mad, as the water had made them. Yet he observed, that all lived easy and sociable with one another, and perfectly well satisfied with their own condition. Tired at length with the solitary state to which his singular wisdom had reduced him, he renounced the sublime advantages of it, in order to partake of the common happiness, drank the water and mingled with the fools.

The ATHEIST.

CAPTAIN Mac-Fitz had been every thing in his prime; he had killed his man, ruined his woman, broke his taylor, kicked waiters out of windows, and hummed the parson: he had been, what the world calls a fine gentleman—a free speaker; quite the thing, as a toast-master, and one of the highest fellows, formerly about the garden. All the women of spirit, both on and off the town, were fond of him: there was not one remarkable club, fit for a genius, and a man of fashion to be admitted into, but he was made a member of it.

But alas, as the finest linen may, when grown old, and much worn, be made into tinder, so natural it is for bloods about town, when old, and worn out, with tinder-like constitutions, to twinkle to the last in the same rotten condition.

The Captain had for some time past been a casual dependant on a publican, for board and lodging; but the poor gentleman, falling sick, was removed out of the ale-house garret, and carried into an untenanted house, to an uncurtained bedstead, a flock bed, and two or three hospital blankets, laid for him to die in.

It is common for chimney-sweepers, to mark a house which is not inhabited, and
steal

steal up the first time they find the door open to get the foot away : the maid of the ale-house had, that morning, very early, been to see how the Captain was, because she had dreamed three times of him, that night, successively : coming down carelessly, she left the door ajar ; this two chimney-sweep boys saw, and up stairs they darted into the room, where the Captain was, who, at the very instant, had taken up the chamber-pot, and was kneeling on the bed, but at their appearance, down he sunk, frightened, overset the urinal, and crept under the bed-cloaths, in a very wet, terrified, and pitiful condition.—The boys did not mind him, but went about their work up the chimney.

Doctor Space presently came up stairs to see the Captain : they had been many years intimates ; the Doctor was a great materialist, and disprover of revealed religion ; a philosopher, orator, and syllogism-maker to the farthing-field society. Now, although the physician was a scholar ; the Captain, who was a fine gentleman, was no thinker at all, but took his friend's opinion, as he did his medicines, upon trust.

Space, walking up the room, with all imaginable consequence, came to the bed-side ; called out, Captain, Captain Mac-Fitz ; the Captain shoving up the bed-cloaths with his head, discovered under a dirty night-cap his lank cheeks, lengthened by the fright, like an

optical picture, and large globules of sweat standing in the wrinkles of his forehead, like pebbles in a plough furrow,—looking gashfully on his friend,—the Doctor seating himself on the bed-side, taking hold of his patient's hand, the following dialogue passed between them.

Doctor. My dear Captain Fitz, pray how do you do ?

Captain. Do—do—Why, I am damned, that's all, and you are damn'd, and we are both damn'd, and there are two little devils gone up the chimney, waiting 'till the wind rises, to carry away our souls.

Doct. Captain, your ideas are coagulated ; your Pia and Dura mater act inconclusively ; the sensorium of your Pineal gland is obnubilated ; the valves of your imagination being too much relaxed to retain contact, you have a lucid Caput.

Capt. Capot : yes, yes, it is a Capot, and a repique too ; Lucifer will repique us, and we are damn'd, I tell you : can't you say one prayer for us both ? do, try ; perhaps that would drive the devils off for an hour or two—stay, I can say some of the belief myself—“ As it was in the beginning, is now ”—but I can't go on with it.—Lord, Lord, what a rogue have I been ! I must be a fine gentleman, indeed, and cut jokes upon Heaven, just to make me howl for it.—What will become of me ?

If

If I could live my time over again, before I'd be a Buck, or a Blood, or a high fellow, I'd black shoes. How many fine women's reputations have I taken away wrongfully?—I shall be tofs'd upon the points of their pitchforks, from one devil to another for that.—How many people's pockets have I picked at picquet, and billiards.—The imps will pick out my eyes for that—then I debauched my friend's wife, and told of it afterwards.—They'll pull out my tongue, with red hot pincers, for that.

Doct. Capt. I intreat attention.—Corporal sensibilities are extinguished upon a dissolution of the material organs; therefore succinctly will I elucidate discriminately, that such phantoms are heterogeneous.

Capt. O Lord! no more of your unintelligibleness, you used to tell me there was no hell, and I was such a fool as to believe you; for I was too fine a fellow to read myself. Now, what signifies all your arguments, when there's two little devils come to confute them?

Just at that instant, the boys had filled their sack, and dropt it down on the hearth:—the room was instantly filled with foot dust.—The Doctor was struck speechless; and the Captain once more retreated between the bed-cloaths; and creeping out at the feet, bending like a posture-master, got that way under the bed, praying all the while, as well as he

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could,

could, that they would carry his friend away without him.

The two boys lugged the sack along the room, which the Doctor observed; and turning down the blankets, and not finding his friend in bed, firmly believed the devils were dragging him off; and fearing that his turn would come next, opened the sash, crept out upon the penthouse, and slid off into the street: but luckily for him, a baker's boy, with an empty basket on his shoulder, going by, received him; but the weight brought them all to the ground—the Doctor crying out, for God's sake, help, help, there are two devils in that house flying away with my friend.

Away a crowd run up stairs, just as the two boys had brought the sack out of the room to the landing-place; but hearing people below, run up a pair of stairs higher, and left the sack upright at the door.—The mob, seeing something black stand upon the stair-head, halted, and called a council. The Captain who, by this time, had put his head and two hands from underneath the bed, and looked like half an overgrown turtle, at the sound of the human voices, got out. His wet shirt was now dirt dried, covered with woolly sweepings; his night-cap off, and hair all frizzled, he looked like a mad hottentot. In that figure, barefoot, he padded to the room door—the mob below seeing him coming,

ing, called out the devil! and run down stairs. He tumbled over the sack, the foot came out after him, and all covered with dust, tramped out of doors, and run over the way. It happened to be a barber's shop, who had just lathered a customer: confusion immediately took possession of the family—the man in the suds run one way, the barber another, the apprentice hid himself in the necessary-house, and the wife crept into the washing-tub, while Captain Fitz, availing himself of his affright, unperceived, crept up into the first floor, which was rented by a girl of the town, and she was drunk in bed. Into the bed, by her, in that miserable condition, the Captain crept; but what the girl said when she awoke, we are entire strangers to; but this we are certain of; that he recovered of his illness, and during the remainder of his life, he behaved very penitently, and at last died a good Christian.

*The amiableness and happy effects of good
humour, or brief and authentic Memoirs
of FELICIA PLEASANT.*

FELICIA was daughter of Sir William Pleasant, who had acquired in trade an immense fortune, which he designed to divide equally between four daughters. The

subject of our narrative, who was the eldest, had little to recommend her but her fortune, and an amazing fund of good-nature; which engaging the affections of young Airy, a neighbour's son, a match was agreed on between their parents.

Felicia's father gave her fifteen thousand pounds, and insisted only on four hundred a year jointure, and Airy's father settled on them immediately 1000*l.* per Annum, which was as much as he could spare from himself and the rest of his family. Young Airy was between three and four and twenty when he married, and Felicia about sixteen: he was all gaiety and extravagance, she all gravity and frugality.—As a short time discovered the opposite nature of their dispositions, Airy began to conceive an aversion to his spouse, and therefore removed from his father's house in the country to London, under pretence of obtaining some place at court either by purchase or interest. Here commenced the numerous trials of the patient Felicia, for scarcely was her husband settled in that seat of luxury and dissipation, than he abandoned himself to almost every vice and folly which prevails therein. To aggravate a most dissolute course of life, he treated his kind and generous spouse with every token of indignity, and would sometimes deny her access to his bed, and even strike her, though she was now pregnant.—Felicia bore

bore all with most astonishing patience, nor once complained to her father or any other relation that occasionally visited her, always disguising his faults, and giving him that good character which she hoped one day or other she should bring him to deserve. Notwithstanding these endearing instances of behaviour, the ungrateful Airy took a mistress, whom he kept in the most public and expensive manner, and adorned with the very jewels which he had taken from his wife.

While he was absent from home, revelling with his mistress, news was brought him that Felicia was delivered of a lovely boy; but even this could not sooth his unrelenting breast, and he not only neglected to visit her, but deprived her of all the assistance that he could possibly withhold, insomuch that she was supplied by the kindness of her sisters. The first visit he paid her, which was about two months after her lying-in, he brought her home a most loathsome disease, nor would permit any person to attend him or perform the most servile and nauseous offices for him but his wife, who would never be from him night nor day. When he recovered from this disorder, he returned to his former excesses, continuing daily to offer her new injuries, which she bore without the least complaint.

By

By such proceedings, it is not to be wondered at if his estate was greatly impaired; debts were daily contracted, and all that he could raise was expended on his debauches. At length his father died with grief for his dissolute course, and left the residue of his fortune to his child, out of his power to touch. Felicia's father likewise departed this life, leaving his brother his executor and trustee for her jointure.

Soon after these occurrences, Airy, by his extravagances, contracted such numerous debts that he was arrested, his household goods seized, and his wife and child turned out of doors. Felicia's uncle would immediately have taken her and her child home, but she, leaving the child with him, and desiring a little money, went to prison to her husband, who was reduced to the want of the common necessaries of life. Here she cherished and endeavoured to alleviate his misfortunes by every possible means, but nothing could move his obdurate heart, so that when he had money, he spent it on lewd women, and when it was exhausted, would abuse his generous wife untill she supplied him afresh. At last his disorder and the closeness of his confinement brought on a fit of sickness, in which she attended him with indefatigable diligence, and when any blamed her for thus kindly treating such an unworthy object, she would remind them

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He was her husband, and that she therefore owed him every instance of duty. This extraordinary behaviour somewhat affected the young gentleman, and induced him to behave with some degree of tenderness towards Felicia, who being informed by the doctors that he would soon die unless released from his confinement, immediately caused his debts to be enquired into, and found that if she could dispose of her jointure, it would set him at liberty, and leave her about threescore pounds a year to live on. Without taking the least notice to her husband, she applied so importunately to her uncle, that purely to save her life, which she protested could not last long after his death, Airy was set at liberty, and removed into the country, attended by his wife and child, and only one maid-servant, in order to recover his health. His indisposition confined him some weeks, in which, reflecting on the falshood of friends and mistresses, who despised him in his poverty when in prison, and the excessive patience, generosity, and affection of his wife; he embraced her most tenderly, assuring her that her unparalleled goodness had made him a perfect convert; that he was now sensible he had been master of a jewel, of whose immense value he had been ignorant, and only wished for an opportunity of giving her a proof of the sincerity of his conversion.

version. She assured him in the most affecting strains, that she was overpaid for all that was past by that single instance of his regard for her, and that she would make it the endeavours of her life to merit his love and esteem. Then kindly embracing, Felicia's happy days begun from that moment, from which a perfect unanimity and concord prevailed between them.

They lived with such harmony in their little retirement, that they became the admiration of all about them; when by a turn of fortune an estate of two thousand a year devolved upon Airy by the death of a first cousin. This plentiful income was improved for the benefit of their children, whom they lived to see reach to years of maturity, and died in a good old age, having evinced the wonderful efficacy of patience and good-humour.

The STEP-MOTHER, or Merit finally triumphant.

THERE lived in the county of Northampton a gentleman of great fortune, who having an only son, put him to those studies which are agreeable to a person of his circumstances.

When

When the child had reached his eleventh year, he lost an indulgent mother, and before she had been buried a month his father married a servant maid, with whom he was supposed to have been intimate during the life of his former spouse. This step-mother becoming pregnant, beheld William (for that was his name) with an eye of envy, being assured that while he continued in his father's favour, there was no hopes of her own child's inheriting the estate, though it should prove a male.

At length being delivered of a son, whom they called Robert, her jealousy became so violent that she took every opportunity of magnifying the little follies and foibles of William to his father, in order to prejudice him against him, and if possible, induce him to disinherit him. Nor were her endeavours ineffectual, for the dotard wrought on by the fond alliance of a young, buxom, and artful wife, concurred with her in treating his eldest son with every token of indifference, and many instances of cruelty; till the youth having attained to his sixteenth year, grew weary of such unworthy treatment, and resolved to trust his fortune to the wide world rather than suffer opprobrious wrongs in his father's house. He had amassed, during the life of his mother, a considerable number of little pieces in silver, which he found upon examination to amount to about eight pounds sterling,

sterling, and having converted them into gold for the convenience of carriage, set out with a small bundle from his father's residence, relying upon Providence for future support.

The first days journey fatigued him so excessively, and galled his feet to such a degree, that he bargained with a waggoner to carry him to town, where he arrived at the usual time, and alighted at an inn in Aldersgate Street. Here he remained about a fortnight, till he was recommended to a Coffee-house, the master of which hired him to do the most menial offices. By his industry and affability in this situation, he acquired not only the esteem of his master, but the general approbation of the company that frequented the house, insomuch, that by their liberality, he trebled the stock with which he set out from the country. An incident soon after occurred that greatly tended to enhance his reputation. His master had a son about fourteen, a lad of a promising genius, who having a task to employ part of his time during the Christmas holidays, which puzzled him very much, William offered his assistance, and with great ease finished his theme. But such was his modesty, that he desired his little acquaintance with the classics might for the present be kept secret ; however, his merit at length emerged from obscurity, and an eminent merchant who

who used the house, concerned that a lad of such abilities should remain in so servile a situation, took him from that place, and put him into his own compting-house. Here he gained universal esteem, still concealing his name and family; but as he found that in the course of business he must take upon him some sir-name, he assumed that of Johnson.

When he had lived in this place about two years, he happened to have some business to transact for his master at a nobleman's house near St. James's-Square, where he was surprized to see one of his father's former servants. He would have concealed himself, but the honest servant who had revered the virtues of his youth, eagerly embraced him, and expressed the highest joy at the interview.—William, charmed with his honesty, related to him all his adventures since his departure, and the poor servant encouraged him to hope for the possession of his birthright, as his brother Robert not only neglected his learning, but seemed to be devoted to every kind of wickedness that his years would admit of his practising. Nor was it long before he found the prediction of the servant verified, for his father soon after wrote to him to come down immediately into the country, assuring him that upon due reflection he was fully convinced of, and heartily concerned for his behaviour towards

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him,

him, and that he was determined, by his future conduct amply to atone for the past.

When William acquainted his master with the necessity of his immediate departure, he at first indicated much surprize at so abrupt a resolution, so that he was obliged to produce the letter, the contents of which at once so astonished and pleased him, that clasping him in his arms, he exclaimed, “ O
 “ worthy youth, hasten to thy birthright and
 “ to that fortune to which thou wast born,
 “ though thou hast been exposed to such in-
 “ dignities. I long read thy mind in thy
 “ visage, and was persuaded that nature had
 “ not formed thee for base offices ; hence I
 “ took thee into my family and determined
 “ to cherish thee as my own son, and in
 “ time to admit thee to a part of my busi-
 “ ness—But Providence has anticipated my
 “ designs, by removing the clouds which
 “ surrounded thee and breaking in upon thee
 “ with the sunshine of fortune. Accept,
 “ therefore, my best wishes, and think of me,
 “ who pitied your adversity and admired
 “ your merit.”

William made every possible acknowledgment of the kindness of his master, and after taking leave of the family set out for his father's house, where he was received with every demonstration of joy by all but his envious step-mother and her abandoned son.—His father died soon after, so that he

became

became sole possessor of a real estate to a great amount: his mother-in-law was punctually paid what was bequeathed her, but she soon squandered it away in luxury and extravagance; nevertheless, such was his generosity, that unmindful of her former behaviour, he settled a handsome annuity upon her, and gave her a decent little house upon his own estate.

By his prudent advice and excellent example he so far reclaimed his brother that though his capacity was shallow, he acquired sufficient knowledge to qualify him for the Compting-house; so that he sent him to his old master, with whom, having served his time, he placed him a partner, and thus laid the foundation of his future prosperity.

He lived to a good old age universally beloved, and died universally lamented as a pattern of all the virtues that can adorn human nature.

The Adventures of an English Sailor at
 CONSTANTINOPLE.

A Certain fond Mahomatan, possessed with European dreams of love and beauty, would neither marry a wife, nor take a concubine, that was not mistress of a tender nature; and, as he thought, accomplished in

those bright perfections, which, in spite of fate, would make him happy. The Turk was long an enemy to every thought that led him to scenes of matrimony; but he was caught at last. He possessed, of wives and concubines, no less than five and twenty; and so fondly doated on their amorous conversation, that he knew no pleasure equal to the enjoyment of their company; he would pass whole days in their apartment, and chuse some one among them every night, for his particular favourite.

However, whether nature had not qualified him for the woman's favourite, or whether every lady thought her turn too long in coming round, is not known; but this is certain, that the whole society were extremely melancholy, and would pensively retire to a large window which looked out into a garden on the backside of their apartment, and by throwing up the lattice, let in air, which fanned, not cooled the warmth of their desires. Their lord was very covetous, and finding Eunuchs somewhat chargeable, maintained but one, and that an old and lazy fellow, who would always go to bed before the ladies, and by that means give them favourable opportunities to open the abovenamed window and look into the garden, or divert themselves with any entertainment they thought fit to pass the night in.

'Twas

'Twas late one evening and the family secure in their repose, when a brisk English sailor, who having lost his company in coming from a little hovel where a Greek sold wine, had rambled up and down from street to street, till he arrived in a small narrow lane, one wall whereof belonged to the above-named garden. He was walking hastily along, not knowing where he was, when he was startled at the sudden noise of women's voices; and desirous to know what sort of creatures the women were in Turkey, he was led by wine and curiosity to ascend a sort of wooden scaffold, which he found there raised against the wall, and had been built in order to repair some breaches made by time.

The art of his profession had instructed him to climb, by which means he with ease got up so high, that hanging by his hands and feet, he overlooked the ridge of the wall, and could perceive, by the favour of the moon-shine, several ladies almost naked, and sporting wantonly together on the other side of the garden. He was wonderfully pleased to see a sight he had been so long a stranger to, and not being able to express himself in Turkish, was resolved to shew his breeding in plain English, and called out aloud, "Ha! my dear rogues, have I caught you, egad I wish I was among you."

Nothing could be a greater surprise to the ladies, than to hear a voice, at once appearing

to be a man's and a stranger to their language; but it was increased if possible, when they beheld a head, chin high, looking over the wall, with short thick hair, and hat of English fashion. The fright at first made them shriek, and drove them from the window for about five minutes; but perceiving none had overheard them in the house, they gathered courage, and returned again, believing Providence had sent a man to gratify their wishes.

The sailor had by this time got astride upon the wall, and was beginning an old ballad in that merry posture, not remembering he had changed his Wapping residence for a short continuance in a Turkish city. But the ladies gathered in a knot about the window, and by the cautionary motions of their fingers, hushed him to silence, and began to beckon him with smiling looks, and all the tempting invitations of an amorous deportment.

Encouraged by their kind behaviour, the adventurous tar forsook his station, and leaping from the wall into the garden, expressed his satisfaction by all the awkward bows and cringes he was master of. He came at last and stood directly under them, explaining by the motions of his head and eyes, and other signs, that he was sorry such an excessive height prevented him from reaching them. They talked a while by signs and motions,

motions, till loth to lose so rare an opportunity, some of the ladies staid in wanton dalliance at the window, while others ran and tied together as many sheets as would reach to the ground; which having done and making fast one end to some hooks in the chamber, they threw down the other end to him, and beckoned to him to make a proper use of their inviting favours.

He was with them in a minute; and they had begun to stare upon the strangeness of his habit, when he interrupted them by roughly kissing all the company. The Turkish husbands never kiss their women but in bed, and consequently this behaviour of our merry Briton wonderfully diverted them; they laughed exceedingly and gathered round him; every one asked some particular question, but he could not understand one word they said, and finding more women than he expected, looked about him with great amazement, but began at last to catch them in his arms and embrace them with so much zeal and rapture, that it was hard to tell which party knew most pleasure.

The room wherein they lay was long and broad, with beds all laid in order along each side, and each desirous to offer him a part of her's; they raised a sort of civil war among themselves, till it was resolved that all should draw a lot a piece, and stand to the decision.

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This then at last they agreed to, and with scissars cut a crimson ribband in twenty five pieces, each a little longer than the other; these they made the sailor hold, and drew their lots in order. She who had the longest was that very night to have him for a bed-fellow. Thus had they formed almost a month's work for the poor sailor who never used to think on time to come, and therefore went contented to bed with his fair first-night mistress.

An hour before the break of day, that lady who was to be next his partner, came and waked him, lest he should be found as soon as morning broke by the Eunuch, who used to walk his rounds about that time; and this they were to do by turns, to observe for their security. They led him to a very high and spacious press, or rather wardrobe, where they used to hang their cloaths: in this repository he was forced to stand or lie all day.

The master of the house would often come and pass some hours among his women, so that all day long the sailor was confined to keep his station, yet wanted little else but liberty, for he had more meat and drink than he required, which the good-humoured ladies ordered to be set aside, pretending they would eat it at another time, and taking some opportunity, when all was safe, they carried

carried it directly to their pounded Amorofo.

They passed about ten days and nights without fear or danger of discovery, when an unlucky accident ruined all: it happened that the lady whose turn it was to claim the sailor for a bedfellow, was taken by the Turk, to his own bed, so that she whose turn came next, was sooner than she expected mistress of her long hoped for happiness; but when the next turn came, the lady who the night before had lawfully possessed her husband's bed, renewed her title to the sailor's person, which she who next expected it denied with fervor, urging, that having lost her turn she should stay till the last of all before she could in justice lay a second claim to what she aimed at.

From words they proceeded to blows, till the Eunuch hearing the noise, came running into the chamber to demand the cause of their disagreement; and the first person he took particular notice of was the jolly tar, who was got amongst the thickest of the fray, to interpose his best endeavours for appeasing their violence. The Eunuch amazed to see a man among the ladies, came and caught him roughly by the shoulders; who was surpris'd to find himself discovered and instantly struck the old Eunuch such a blow on the head, as beat him to the ground, and running to the window, leaped fearlessly down,

down, and lighting on the soft yielding mould received no hurt; and making a shift to clamber up a gate which opened to the lane, after half an hour's rambling up and down, came out upon the port where lay an English vessel half unladen close upon the key. He got on board, and overjoyed at his escape, went next morning to the vessel he belonged to, which departed two days after on her voyage for England, and brought home jewels of a considerable value, which the ladies, whom he had favoured with a night's lodging had each presented him with.

The cruel GOVERNOR punished.

A Governor in Sweden, being disgusted at a certain Swiss, commanded him to be yoked with oxen that drew burthens in a cart. But when neither by fair nor foul means they could force him to this vile condescension, he commanded his eyes to be put out; which was done accordingly. This was murmured at. But being the first essay of his cruel disposition, they winked at it.

A while after, the same Governor commanded a woman in her husband's absence, to prepare a hot bath for him. Which when the chaste matron refused to perform, till her husband came home, he struck her dead
with

with an axe. This also, though heightening the choler of the Swiss, was passed by in meditation of future revenge.

At last he grew so foolishly proud and imperious, that walking one day in the streets of the city, he stuck his cane in the ground, and placed his turbant or bonnet thereon; commanding all that passed by to give honour to it. Which when a certain honest Swiss refused to do, he commanded him to strike off an apple from his son's head with a shot from his cross-bow. The good father for a long time refused thus to hazard his son's life. But being overcome by the tyrant's importunate menaces, he rather ventured to trust to Providence the life of his son, than to sacrifice both that and his own to the implacable malice of a barbarian. So he shot, and hit the apple off without touching his son's head. The Governor seeing this, and taking notice that he had brought two arrows with him, asked him the reason of it. To whom the Swiss answered, "If I had shot amiss and hurt my son with the first arrow, I was resolved to have pierced thy heart with the second." Upon this, all the people gave a shout, and running together, seized upon the Governor, and tore him to pieces. Neither would they afterwards endure or admit any man into their cities, from the Emperor, unless he came in the quality of an Ambassador.

*The old Proverb, Take a Wife down in
her WEDDING-SHOES, exemplified in a
pleasant Story.*

A Gentleman in Lincolnshire had four daughters, three of which were early married very happily ; but the fourth, though no way inferior to any of her sisters, either in person or accomplishments, had from her infancy, discovered so imperious a temper, (usually called a spirit) that it continually made great uneasiness in the family, became her known character in the neighbourhood, and deterred all her lovers from declaring themselves. However, in process of time, a gentleman of a plentiful fortune, and long acquaintance, having observed that quickness of spirit to be her only fault, made his addresses, and obtained her consent in due form. The lawyers finished the writings (in which, by the way, there was no pin-money) and they were married. After a decent time spent in the father's house, the bridegroom went to prepare his seat for her reception. During the whole course of his courtship, tho' a man of the most equal temper, he had artificially lamented to her, that he was the most passionate creature breathing. By this one intimation, he at once made her understand warmth of temper to be what he ought to
pardon

pardon in her, as well as that he alarmed her against that constitution in himself. She at the same time, thought herself highly obliged by the composed behaviour which he maintained in her presence. Thus far he with great success soothed her from being guilty of violences, and still resolved to give her such a terrible apprehension of his fiery spirit, that she should never dream of giving way to her own. He returned on the day appointed for carrying her home; but instead of a coach and six horses, together with gay equipages suitable to the occasion, he appeared without a servant, mounted on a skeleton of a horse, (which his huntsman had the day before brought in to feast his dogs on the arrival of his new mistress) with a pillion fixed behind, and a case of pistols before him, attended only by a favourite hound. Thus equipped, he in a very obliging (but somewhat positive) manner, desired his lady to seat herself upon the cushion; which done, away they crawled. The road being obstructed by a gate, the dog was commanded to open it; the poor cur looked up and wag'd his tail; but the master, to shew the impatience of his temper, drew a pistol and shot him dead. He had no sooner done it, but he fell into a thousand apologies for his unhappy rashness, and begged as many pardons for his excesses before one for whom he had so profound a respect. Soon after

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their horse stumbled, but with some difficulty recovered; however, the bridegroom took occasion to swear, if he frightened his wife so again, he would run him through; and alas! the poor animal being now almost tired, made a second trip: immediately on which the careful husband alights, and with great ceremony, first takes off his lady, then the accoutrements, draws his sword, and saves the huntsman the trouble of killing him. Then, says he to his wife, child, prithee take up the saddle; which she readily did, and tug'd it home, where they found all things in the greatest order, suitable to their fortune and the present occasion. Some time after, the father of the lady gave an entertainment to all his daughters and their husbands, where, when the wives were retired, and the gentlemen passing a toast about, our last married man took occasion to observe to the rest of his brethren, how much, to his great satisfaction, he found the world mistaken as to the temper of his lady, for that she was the most meek and humble woman breathing. The applause was received with a loud laugh: but as a trial which of them would appear the most master at home, he proposed they should all by turns send for their wives down to them. A servant was dispatched, and answer was made by one, "tell him I will come by and by;" and another, "that she would come when the cards were out"

" of

"of hand," and so on. But no sooner was her husband's desire whispered in the ear of our last married lady, but the cards were clapped on the table, and down she comes with, "my dear, would you speak with me?" He received her in his arms, and after repeated caresses tells her the experiment, confesses his good nature, and assures her, that since she could now command her temper, he would no longer disguise his own.

A Remarkable Story of a Murder.

A Farmer, on his return from the market, at Southam, in the county of Warwick, was murdered. A man went the next morning to his house, and enquired of the mistress if her husband came home the evening before; she replied no, and that she was under the utmost anxiety and terror on that account. Your terror, added he, cannot equal mine, for last night, as I lay in bed quite awake, the apparition of your husband appeared to me, shewed me several ghastly stabs in his body, told me he had been murdered by such a person, and his carcase thrown into such a marble pit. The alarm was given, the pit searched, the body found, and the wounds answered the description of them. The man whom the ghost had accused was apprehended and committed, on

a violent suspicion of murder. His trial came on at Warwick, before the Lord Chief Justice Raymond, when the jury would have convicted, as rashly as the justice of peace had committed him, had not the judge checked them. He addressed himself to them in words to this purpose: "I think, gentlemen, you
 "seem inclined to lay more stress on the evidence of an apparition, than it will bear.
 "I cannot say that I give much credit to these kind of stories; but be that as it will, we
 "have no right to follow our own private opinions here: we are now in a court of
 "law, and must determine according to it;
 "and I know not of any law now in being which will admit of the testimony of an apparition; nor yet if it did, doth the ghost
 "appear to give evidence.—Crier, said he, call the ghost," which was thrice done to no manner of purpose. It appeared not. "Gentlemen of the jury, continued the judge, the
 "prisoner at the bar, as you have heard by undeniable witnesses, is a man of the most
 "unblemished character, nor hath it appeared, in course of the examination, that there was
 "any manner of quarrel or grudge between him and the party deceased. I do believe
 "him to be perfectly innocent; and, as there is no evidence against him either positive or
 "circumstantial, he must be acquitted. But,
 "from many circumstances which have arose during the trial, I do strongly suspect that
 "the

“ the gentleman who saw the apparition, was
 “ himself the murderer; in which case he
 “ might easily ascertain the pit, the flabs, &c.
 “ without any supernatural assistance; and on
 “ suspicion I shall think myself justified in
 “ committing him to close custody, till the
 “ matter can be further enquired into.” This
 was immediately done, and a warrant granted
 for searching his house, when such strong
 proofs of guilt appeared against him, that he
 confessed the murder, for which he was exe-
 cuted.

Story of the Grand Duke of TUSCANY.

COSMO de Medicis, Grand duke of Tus-
 cany, concerning whom; on account of
 his prodigious wealth, it was rumoured, that
 he had the art of transmutation. A noble
 Venetian, who, though he had but a small
 fortune, was extremely well recommended to
 his highness, (and by his polite behaviour, ad-
 ded daily to his credit in that court) one day
 fairly put the question, and asked the duke,
 if he had the philosopher's stone or not? My
 friend said the Duke, I have; and because I
 have a regard for you, I will give you the re-
 ceipt in few words. “ I never bid another do
 “ that which I can do myself; I never put off
 “ till to-morrow what may be done to-day;

“ nor do I think any matter so trivial as not to deserve notice.” The Venetian thanked his serene highness for the secret ; and by observing his rules, acquired a great estate.

The public-spirited COBLER.

THERE is a sort of enthusiasm in public spirit, which renders it politically prudent in corrupt statesmen to discourage it ; and yet there is something so great and so divine in this enthusiasm, that statesmen of a better turn, though they dare not encourage, yet cannot but admire it. We have a shining and surprising example of this in the Cobler of Messina, which happened in the last century, and is at once a proof that public spirit is the growth of every degree.

This Cobler was an honest man, and, I was going to say, poor ; but when I consider that he maintained his family, and was above dependence, I cannot prevail upon myself to make use of the expression. He was also a man of reflection, he saw the corruption, luxury, and oppression, the private frauds, the public robberies, the enormous violation of justice, under which his country laboured. He saw rapes unpunished, adulteries unproved, barbarous murders either screened by church sanctuaries, or attoned for by money ;
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in a word, he saw a universal degeneracy of manners, partly from the want of will, partly from the want of power in the government to chastise offenders. In this situation he resolved to undertake the arduous task of reforming these disorders, and thought it both lawful and expedient to assume the authority of avenger of the innocent, and the terror of the guilty.

Full of this romantic resolution, he provided himself with a short gun, which he carried under his cloak, and equipped with a powder-pouch on one thigh, and a bag of balls on the other, he sallied out in the evenings, and as proper opportunities offered, he dispatched such as he knew to be incorrigible offenders to that tribunal, where he was sensible they could not elude justice; and then returned home full of that satisfaction which is the sole reward of public spirit. As there were in Messina a great number of these overgrown criminals, the Cobbler, in the space of a few weeks, did a great deal of execution. The sun never rose without discovering fresh marks of his justice; here lay a usurer, who had ruined hundreds; there an unjust magistrate, who had been the curse of thousands; in one corner, a nobleman who had debauched his friend's wife; in another, a man of the same rank, who, through avarice and ambition, had prostituted his own; but as the bodies were always untouched, with all their ornaments
about

about them, and very often with considerable sums in their pockets, it was visible they were not dispatched for the sake of money: and their numbers made it as evident, that they did not fall victims to private revenge.

It is not in the power of words to describe the astonishment of the whole city; things came at last to such a pass, that not a rogue of any rank whatever durst walk the streets; complaint upon complaint was carried to the vice-roy; and magistrates, guards, spies, and every other engine of power, were employed to no manner of purpose. At last, when no less than fifty of these examples had been made, the vice-roy took a serious resolution of putting a stop to these mischiefs, by the only method that seemed capable of reaching the evil; he caused public proclamation to be made, that he would give the sum of 2000 crowns to any person who should discover the author or authors of these murders, promising at the same time the like reward, with an absolute indemnity, to the person who had done them, if he would discover himself; and as a pledge of his sincerity, he went to the cathedral, and took the sacrament, that he would punctually perform every tittle of his proclamation.

The Cocker, having either satisfied his zeal of justice, or being now in a temper to secure his own safety, after having, in his own opinion, done so much service to the state, went directly

directly to the palace, and demanded an audience of the vice-roy, to whom, upon his declaring that he had something of great importance to communicate, he was admitted alone. He began with putting his excellency in mind of his oath, who assured him he meant to keep it religiously. The Cobler then proceeded to the following harangue. “ I, sir, have been
 “ alone that instrument of justice, who dis-
 “ patched, in so short a time, so many criminals. In doing this, sir, I have done no
 “ more than what was your duty to do. You,
 “ sir, who, in reality, are guilty of all the offences which these wretches committed, de-
 “ served the same chastisement, and had met
 “ with it too, had I not respected the representative of my prince, who, I know, is ac-
 “ countable to God alone.” He then entered into an exact detail of all the murders he had done, and the motives upon which he had proceeded. The vice-roy, who was thoroughly convinced that he told him no more than the truth, repeated his assurances of safety, and thanked him very affectionately for the tenderness he had shewn him, adding, after all, he was ready to pay him the 2000 crowns.

Our Cobler returned the vice-roy his compliments in his rough way ; but told him, after what had passed, he believed it would be but prudent in him to make choice of some other city for his habitation, and that too in
 some

some corner of Italy not under the jurisdiction of his catholic majesty. The vice-roy thought his reasons had weight, and, therefore, after thanking him in the most gracious terms for supplying that power which the government wanted, he ordered a tartane to transport him, his family, his effects, and 2000 crowns, to one of the ports in the territory of Genoa; where this extraordinary person passed the remainder of his days in ease and quiet, and the city of Messina felt, for a long time after, the good effects of his enthusiastic zeal for the public good, and for the first execution of justice, without respect to persons.

This story, however strange, is exactly true; and, as Philip of Macedon kept a page, who, to moderate his ambition, and to put him in mind of his duty, as a prince, was wont to awake him in the morning with this salutation, "Remember, Philip, that thou art a man;" so, I think, it would be happy for the ministers, who are either entrusted by their masters, or acquire to themselves a boundless authority, supported by boundless influence; if they would write in a table-book, and from thence refresh their memories frequently with this sentence, "What if the Cobler of Messina should revive?"

Friar PHILIP'S GEESE.

[Dedicated to the Fair Sex.]

Ladies,

YOUR numberless charms would, in the imagination of a youthful solitary, have surpassed the beauties of the spring, and the cheerfulness of the morning! and had our youthful solitary seen them in his tender years, he would have preferred them to the dazzling splendor of the gold-bespankled skies, and the lovely verdure of the fields! And indeed, he no sooner beheld your numberless charms, but he felt their force, your beauties excelled all other objects, and they immediately faded in his eye.

The sight of the most magnificent palaces no longer invited his curiosity; in a word, he discovered infinitely more lustre in your persons, than in a jewel which adorns a crown. This youth had from his infancy inhabited the woods and groves, where the winged choristers were his companions, whose delightful harmony used sometimes to cheer his lonely hours; their innocent melody was his sole delight, notwithstanding he was wholly unacquainted with the meaning of their tuneful language.

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To this rural school his father had brought him up from his infancy, immediately after the death of his mother; and the tender babe was no sooner born, than he removed him far from the sight of any human creature. And for many years he had not the least idea that there were any such in the world; and imagined that there were no other creatures than the tenants of the forest he dwelt in; such as birds, wolves, and others, who enjoy only a sensitive life, and are not endowed with any of the rational faculties. The two motives which prevailed with his father to shun all human converse, were first, his great abhorrence of mankind in general; and secondly, his fear.

And from the time his dear consort had left the world, and winged her way to heaven, he detested the society of his fellow creatures. When grown old with the sighs he himself vented, with his continual moan, and the repining of all those he met with; the death of his better half made him both hate, as well as fear the rest of her sex; so that he resolved to turn hermit, and to bring up his son in the same way of life. Upon this, having distributed his wealth among the indigent, he sets out unaccompanied, except by his infant son, whom he carried in his arms, and striking down a lonely forest, he stops in the most solitary part of it. The name of this man, as history informs us, was Philip. Here our
hermit

hermit studiously conceals a hundred particulars from the child; and that not from a severity and gloominess of temper, but from a motive of piety, and takes the utmost care not to let the least word drop from him, which might intimate that there were any such creatures in the world as women; or such things as desires or passions, particularly that of love.

In this solitude, he instructed his mind in things proportionable to his age.

Having attained his fifth year, he taught him the names of flowers and animals; and would now and then intermix with these discourses some account of the Devil, whom he represented as an ill shaped, hideous creature; and indeed the first lesson which children are generally taught, is fear. Being now ten years of age, things of a more deep and abstruse nature were brought upon the carpet, and he revealed to him some few particulars relating to the other world; but not a word about women. At fifteen he taught him every thing his mind was susceptible of; gave him an idea of the Creator of all things, but forbore to speak of the most lovely part of his works.

Now twenty, his father thought proper to take him with him to a neighbouring city; for the old man was very much oppressed with the infirmities of age, and scarce able to walk thither for the necessaries of life; upon

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which,

which, considering that all the lad would inherit from him was a wallet and staff—he determined to shew him the way to the city, that he, after his death, might provide for himself. There were, indeed, but few people who did not give friar Philip a little loaf; so that had he been of a covetous disposition he might have heaped up considerable wealth. He was known to all the little children, who upon his approach, used to cry out “your alms, your alms, friar Philip’s a coming.” Our good anchoret no sooner thought that the things he had instilled into his son, were firmly rivetted in his mind, than he resolves to make a trial of fortune, and carry him to visit such good persons as were charitably disposed. However, tears gushed from his eyes when he considered the temptations to which the lad would be exposed. But our two Hermits are set out upon their journey, and arrived at the city, which was magnificent and finely built, and the place where the king kept his court.

Here he met with ten thousand objects unknown to him before; when our harmless youth, in the utmost amaze, cries out, “what do you call that thing there?” A courtier, replies the father. “And those yonder?” Palaces, my dear. “These here? statues.” He was gazing on these several objects, when some young and beautiful girls skudded along before him, and immediately drew all his attention:

tention: for now he no longer views the palaces and other objects he had before admired, but is seized with another kind of admiration; and all in rapture at this enchanting sight, he cries out, "Oh, father! what's that so prettily dressed? how is it called?" The old man, who did not in the least relish this question, answers, "'Tis a bird called a "Goose, child." "Sweet, pretty bird! cries the lad in the utmost transport, prithee sing a little; let me hear some of thy music; could not I get a little acquainted with thee? "Dear father, I intreat you, if you love me, "to let us carry one of them into our forest."

A GENOESE Story.

LUCHIN Vivalde, a wealthy Genoese, and a married man, cast his eyes, with an evil design, upon the virtue of the beautiful Jaquinette, a poor young maid, and tried every means to seduce her to his embraces. But she resisted, and was proof against all his attempts and devices; she married an honest labouring man, by whom she had several children, and lived with him contented in her station. However, Luchin did not cease his intrigues. He feigned to be very friendly to the husband, and actually shewed him many civilities and favours, the better to corrupt

the wife, and not without hopes of prevailing with him to yield to his request, and to force his wife to submit to his solicitations. Even this could work nothing upon the chaste and resolute JaquINETTE, whose immoveable resolution made him in some sort give up the pursuit of his adulterous design.

But, her husband being taken by the pyrates, and the city of Genoa being oppressed with a great dearth, and five small children crying about the good woman for bread, without her capacity to provide for them, JaquINETTE, oppressed with extreme want and despair, having no human means to help herself and children, she, in a fit of frenzy, goes directly to LUCHIN's house, and, being introduced to him alone, gave herself up to his power, on condition of his providing for the distresses of her family.

LUCHIN was ravished to see her, but was more amazed at her countenance than her words. She, prostrate at his feet, submitted herself wholly to his will, and only begged he would relieve her poor children, dying with hunger. LUCHIN, agitated by contrary emotions, was at last conquered by reason, and directed by a good spirit: Rise up, JaquINETTE, said he, your offer is an act of necessity and distress, not voluntary and of desire. I will take no advantage of your misery. I will now vanquish myself; I will preserve your honour, which I have, contrary to my duty,
and

and the peace of your mind, so long sought to violate ; and henceforth I will look upon you as my own sister, and relieve and assist you with a sincere affection. Then, taking her by the hand, led her to his wife, reported the whole affair unto her : and that good lady contributed all in her power to reward the virtue, and to relieve the family of poor JaquINETTE.

The HUMOROUS INTRUSION.

MR. Dyer, who was remarkable for facetiousness and drollery, happened one day to be alone at the Flask at Hampstead, in venison-time, when the Cordwainers-company kept their annual feast there. Dyer observed two glorious hanches roasting at the fire, and made it his business to learn who they were for. Being told, for the Cordwainers-company, he determined to dine with them. He knew it was the custom upon those occasions for every member to bring his friend, and consequently that several, as well as himself, would be strangers to all but one in the company, and that questions are never asked, when once admittance is obtained and people are seated ; he therefore watched his opportunity when dinner went up, and seated himself among the rest as near as he could to

one of the hanches, where he did not fail to play his part. He was very pleasant and chearful, and those that sat next him were highly diverted; no exceptions were taken, and all passed off as he had imagined. After dinner, when the bottle and song began to move briskly round, he sung in his turn, and was much applauded. But when the time came that he thought of departing, he shifted his seat, and placing himself next the door, he began a story. He had already drawn the attention of the company upon him by his uncommon humour: so, upon the word story all were silent. Gentlemen, said he, I am always pleased when I have an opportunity of remarking the flourishing condition of trade; I remember a wonderful alteration for the better in this very company of yours within these forty years, and I think I can give you a remarkable instance of it. When I was a young fellow, continued Dyer gravely, I was but low in the world myself; and I observed that the nearest way to wealth was through the road of frugality; and therefore I pitched upon a chop-house in Grub-street where I could dine for two-pence. The mistress of the house was remarkably neat and civil, particularly to those who were her constant customers; and the room where we dined was, by means of a curtain, or more properly a blanket hung upon a rod, partitioned off into two divisions, the inner and the outer; the
inner

inner division the good woman kept for the better sort of folks, of which I had the honour to be accounted one, and the outer was for the casual and ordinary sort. It happened one day, however, as I was drawing the blanket to go in as usual, the mistress of the house pulled me hastily by the coat, and whispered in my ear, You must not go in there to-day, sir.—Why so? (said I in some heat) I beg your pardon, sir, (said the woman) but indeed you can't be admitted.—What the devil's the matter that I can't be admitted? (said I swaggering) Why, (said the woman, with joy in her countenance) the master and wardens of the Cordwainers-company do me the honour to dine with me to-day, and I must keep my best parlour empty for their worships reception. I thought it indeed but decent to give place to that worthy body, and so was pacified.—The company upon hearing this story began to lay their heads together, to know who this gentleman was, which Dyer observing, took that opportunity to slip away.

A Strange EYE-WATER.

SOON after the battle of Oudenarde, the dutchess of Marlborough made a tour to Flanders, under pretence of complimenting the duke on that victory, but in fact to inform

form him of the cabals of his enemies, which it was not safe to entrust on paper. Her grace landed at Dunkirk, where she lay all night; and in the morning, her thoughts being intent, perhaps, upon more important concerns, though she had given a great deal of trouble in the inn, yet she went away and forgot the usual present to the chambermaid. The girl, who interpreted this neglect to her grace's want of generosity, thought of an expedient to make herself amends; and with this view she purchased a number of phials, and then filling them, carefully corked them up, and sealed them; this done, she caused it to be rumoured abroad that she had a quantity of the dutchess of Marlborough's eye-water, which her grace, at her departure, had put into her hands to sell. It was in reality the dutchess of Marlborough's water that filled the bottles, and the humour succeeded to the girl's wish; the eye-water was bought for the novelty by rich and poor, and the cures it performed were so wonderful, that the fame of its virtues reached the dutchess at the English camp. Her grace recollected her omission, and was not a little nettled at the wench's stratagem, but could not then help it. In her return home however, she lay again at the same inn; and as the wench was putting her to bed at night, child, said she, I hear you have a famous eye-water to sell; I have a mind to be a purchaser. The girl, quite confound-
ed

ed and ready to sink, faintly said, it was all disposed of. What quantity might you have of it, said the dutchess? only a few dozens, replied the girl. Well, said the dutchess, prepare your bottles, and you now may have a larger quantity of the genuine sort. The girl was miserably perplexed, and could not tell what to say; but fell into tears, and dropping upon her knees confessed her indiscretion, and humbly implored her grace's forgiveness, promising never to offend again in the like manner. Nay, but indeed, child, said her grace, you must make up some for me, for I have heard an excellent character of its sovereign virtues. Being assured her grace was in earnest, the girl replied, she should be obeyed. Her grace's intention was, to prevent her eye-water being any more hawked about in Dunkirk; and therefore, in the morning, she ordered her young doctress in her own presence to bottle every drop of it, to cork it up safely, and seal it, as she had done the former; by which she discovered that the girl had actually procured her grace's arms to her new nostrum, a circumstance she had not before dreamt of. Well, my dear, said the dutchess, I find you are a mistress of your trade; you make no scruple to counterfeit a seal. Madam, said the girl, you dropt the seal in the room, and that put me in the head of it. And what might you gain, said her grace, by your last supply; fifty livres, replied the girl.

girl. Very well, said the dutchess; please to restore the seal, and there is double that sum for you; putting five louis d'ors in her hand; adding with a stern look, and a severe tone of voice, Beware of counterfeits, hussy.

AVARICE *Mistaken.*

A YOUNG fellow, whose person was very handsome, addressed a wealthy old widow, who after a little application consented to have him. Boasting of his success amongst his comrades, he spoke with the utmost contempt of the lady, and professed, it was not her that he designed to marry, but her money. She had notice of this declaration, and resolved to be even with her pretended lover. Accordingly, on the wedding-day, she dressed as gayly as if she were really going to be made a bride, and hung a purse of gold at her side, of which she made an extraordinary use on the occasion. She gave her hand to the deceiver with a seeming alacrity; and he led her to the ceremony with the appearance of a sincere affection, while he was inwardly exulting with the hope of the rich prize that he was basely betraying into his possession. He went through his part, we may believe, without the least hesitation; but it was quite otherwise with his partner; for, when she

was

was desired to repeat her's after the minister, she continued some time silent, holding forth her purse only. The parson pressing her to speak, and demanding the reason of such an odd behaviour, she said, " Sir, the scoundrel, " who stands here with me, is an impostor, " who comes not to espouse me, as he has " openly avowed, but my fortune. Here is " its proxy, (pointing to the Guineas at her " girdle) and he may persuade it to contract " with him, if he can ; but I will by no means " intrude myself into the place of that which " is the beloved and real object of his pursuit. " This villain, who hates my person, would " make himself master of my estate, and " bring me to ruin : I hope therefore you " will justify my conduct, in disappoointing " his vile intention, and exposing him to the " shame he deserves."

The happy REBUKE.

THE late reverend Basil Kennet, was once chaplain in a ship of war ; and as his place was to mess with his brother officers, he found they were so addicted to the impious and nonsensical vice of swearing, that he thought it not becoming his character to continue any longer among them, unless he could prevail upon them to leave it off ; but conceiving

ceiving at the same time that any grave remonstrance would have but little effect, he bethought himself of a stratagem which might answer his purpose. One of the company having entertained the rest with a story agreeable enough in itself, but so interrupted and perplexed with damme! blood and wounds! and such like shocking expletives as made it extremely ridiculous, Mr. Kennet then began a story himself, which he made very entertaining and instructive, but interlarded it with the words bottle, pot, and glass, at every sentence. The gentleman who was the most given to the silly vice, fell a laughing at Mr. Kennet, with a great air of contempt. Why, said he, G—d—you, doctor, as to your story it is well enough; but what the d—I have we to do with your d—d bottle, pot, and glass? Mr. Kennet very calmly replied, Sir, I find you can observe what is ridiculous in me, which you cannot discover in yourself; and therefore you ought not to be offended at my expletives in discourse any more than your own. — Oh, oh! d—me, parson, I smoke you; you shall not hear me swear another oath whilst I am in your company: nor did he.

Story of TRANQUILLIA; *or, an old*
Maid's *Apology.*

IT is not very difficult to bear that condition to which we are not condemned by necessity, but induced by observation and choice; and therefore I, perhaps, have never yet felt all the malignity, with which a reproach edged with the appellation old maid swells in some of those hearts, in which it is infixed. I was not condemned in my youth to solitude, either by necessity or want, nor passed the earlier part of life without the flattery of courtship, and the joys of triumph. I have danced the round of gaiety amidst the murmurs of envy and gratulations of applause, been attended from pleasure to pleasure by the great, the sprightly, and the vain, and seen my regard solicited by the obsequiousness of gallantry, the gaiety of wit, and the timidity of love. If, therefore, I am yet a stranger to nuptial happiness, I suffer only the consequences of my resolves, and can look back upon the succession of lovers, whose addresses I have rejected, without grief, and without malice.

When my name first began to be inscribed upon glasses, I was honoured with the amorous professions of the gay Venustus, a gentleman, who, being the only son of a wealthy

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family,

family, had been educated in the wantonness of expence, and softness of effeminacy. He was beautiful in his person, and easy in his address, and, therefore soon gained upon my eye at an age when it is very little over-ruled by the understanding. He had not any power in himself of pleasing or amusing, but supplied his want of conversation by treat and diversions; and his chief act of courtship was to fill the mind of his mistress with parties, rambles, music, and shows. We were often engaged in short excursions to gardens and seats, and I was for a while pleased with the care which Venustulus discovered, in securing me from any appearance of danger, or possibility of mischance. He never failed to recommend caution to his coachman, or to promise the waterman a reward if he landed us safe, and his great care was always to return by day-light for fear of robbers. This extraordinary solicitude was represented for a time as the effect of his tenderness for me; but fear is too strong for continual hypocrisy. I soon discovered that Venustulus had the cowardise as well as elegance of a female. His imagination was perpetually clouded with terrors, and he could scarcely refrain from screams and outcries at any accidental surprize. He durst not enter a room where a rat was heard behind the wainscot, nor cross a field where the cattle were frisking in the sunshine; the least breeze that waved upon the river was a storm,

storm, and every clamour in the street was a cry of fire. I have seen him lose his colour when my squirrel had broke his chain, and was forced to throw water in his face on the sudden entrance of a black cat. I was once obliged to drive away with my fan a beetle that kept him in distress, and chide off a dog that yelped at his heels, to whom he would gladly have given up me to facilitate his own escape. Women naturally expect defence and protection from a lover or a husband, and therefore you will not think me culpable in refusing a wretch, who would have burdened life with unnecessary fears, and flown to me for that succour, which it was his duty to have given.

My next lover was Fungoso, the son of a stock-jobber, whose visits my friends, by the importunity of persuation, prevailed upon me to allow. Fungoso was indeed no very suitable companion, for having been bred in a counting-house, he spoke a language unintelligible in any other place. He had no desire of any reputation but that of an acute prognosticator of the changes in the funds; nor had any means of raising merriment, but by telling how somebody was over-reached in a bargain by his father. He was, however, a youth of great sobriety and prudence, and frequently informed us how carefully he would improve my fortune. I was in haste to conclude the match, but was so much awed by

my parents, that I durst not dismiss him, and might perhaps, have been doomed for ever to the grossness of ignorance, and the jargon of usury, had not a fraud been discovered in the settlement, which set me free from the persecution of grovelling pride and pecuniary impudence.

I was afterwards six months without any particular notice, but at last became the idol of the glittering Flosculus, who prescribed the mode of embroidery to all the fops of his time, and varied at pleasure the cock of every hat, and the sleeve of every coat that appeared in fashionable assemblies. Flosculus made some impression upon my heart by a compliment which few ladies can hear without emotion; he commended my skill in dress, my judgment in suiting colours, and my art in disposing ornaments. But Flosculus was too much engaged by his own elegance, to be sufficiently attentive to the duties of a lover. He expected to be repaid part of his tribute, and staid away three days because I neglected to take notice of a new coat. I soon found that Flosculus was rather a rival than an admirer, and that we should probably live in a perpetual struggle of emulous finery, and spend our lives in stratagems to be first in the fashion.

I had soon after the honour, at a feast, of attracting the eyes of Dentatus, one of those human beings whose only happiness is to dine.

dine. Dentatus regaled me with foreign varieties, told me of measures that he had laid for procuring the best cook in France, and entertained me with bills of fare, the arrangement of dishes, and two sauces invented by himself; at length, such is the uncertainty of human happiness, I declared my opinion too hastily upon a pie made under his own direction; after which he grew so cold and negligent, that he was easily dismissed.

Many other lovers, or pretended lovers, I have had the honour to lead a while in triumph. But two of them I drove from me by discovering they had no taste or knowledge in music; three I dismissed because they were drunkards; two, because they paid their addresses at the same time to other ladies; and six, because they attempted to influence my choice by bribing my maid. Two more I discarded at the second visit for obscene allusions, and five for drollery on religion. In the latter part of my reign I sentenced two to perpetual exile, for offering me settlements by which the children of a former marriage would have been injured; four, for misrepresenting the value of their estates; three, for concealing their debts; and one, for raising the rent of a decrepit tenant.

After all that I have said, the reproach ought not to be extended beyond the crime, nor either sex to be condemned, because some women or men are indelicate or dishonest.

*A Remarkable story of the affection of
two Brothers.*

IN the beginning of the 16th century the Portugueze carracks sailed from Lisbon to Goa; a very great, rich, and flourishing colony of that nation in the East-Indies. There were no less than twelve hundred souls, mariners, merchants, passengers, priests, and friars, on board one of these vessels. The beginning of their voyage was prosperous, they had doubled the Southern extremity of the great continent of Africa, called the Cape of Good Hope, and were shaping their course North-East, to the great continent of India, when some gentlemen on board, who having studied geography and navigation (arts that reflect honour on the possessors) found in the latitude, in which they were then sailing, a large ridge of rocks laid down in their sea-charts. They had no sooner made this discovery, than they acquainted the captain of the ship with the affair, desiring him to communicate the same to the pilot; which request he immediately gratified, recommending him to lie by in the night, and slacken sail by day, until they should be past the danger. It is a custom always among the Portugueze, absolutely to commit the sailing part, or the navigation of the vessel, to the pilot,

pilot, who is answerable, with his head, for the safe conduct or carriage of the king's ships, or those belonging to private traders; and he is under no manner of direction from the captain, who commands in every other respect.

The pilot being one of those self-sufficient men, who think every hint given them from others, in the way of their profession, as derogatory from their understanding, took it as an affront to be taught his art; and, instead of complying with the captain's request, actually crowded more sail than the vessel had carried before. They had not sailed many hours, but just about the dawn of day a terrible disaster befel them, which would have been prevented if they had lain by. The ship struck upon a rock. I leave to the reader's imagination, what a scene of horror this dreadful accident must occasion among twelve hundred persons, all in the same inevitable danger, beholding, with fearful astonishment, that instantaneous death, which now stared them in the face!

In this distress, the captain ordered the pinnace to be launched, into which having tossed a small quantity of biscuit, and some boxes of marmalade, he jumped himself, with nineteen others, who, with their swords, prevented the coming in of any more, lest the boat should sink. In this condition they put off into the great Indian ocean, without a compass

compass to steer by, or any fresh water, but what might happen to fall from the heavens, whose mercy alone could deliver them. After they had rowed four days, to and fro, in this miserable situation, the captain, who had been for some time very sick and weak, died: this added, if possible, to their misery; for as they now fell into confusion, every one would govern, and none would obey. This obliged them to elect one of their own company to command them, whose orders they implicitly agreed to follow. This person proposed to the company to draw lots, and to cast every fourth man over board; as their small stock of provision was so far spent, as not to be able at a very short allowance, to sustain life above three days longer. They were now nineteen persons in all; in this number were a friar and a carpenter, both of whom they would exempt, as the one was useful to absolve and comfort them in their last extremity, and the other to repair the pinnacle, in case of a leak or other accident. The same compliment they paid to their new captain, he being the odd man, and his life of much consequence. He refused this indulgence a great while, but, at last, they obliged him to acquiesce; so that there were four to die out of the sixteen remaining persons.

The three first, after having confessed, and received absolution, submitted to their fate. The fourth, whom fortune condemned, was a Portuguese

Portuguese gentleman, that had a younger brother in the boat, who seeing him about to be thrown over board, most tenderly embraced him, and with tears in his eyes, besought him to let him die in his room; enforcing his arguments, by telling him, that he was a married man, and had a wife and children at Goa, besides the care of three sisters, who absolutely depended upon him: that as for himself, he was single, and his life of no great importance; he therefore conjured him to suffer him to supply his place. The elder brother astonished, and melting with this generosity, replied, 'that since the divine providence had appointed him to suffer, it would be wicked and unjust to permit any other to die for him, especially a brother, to whom he was so infinitely obliged.' The younger, persisting in his purpose, would take no denial: but, throwing himself on his knees, held his brother so fast, that the company could not disengage them. Thus they disputed for a while, the elder brother bidding him be a father to his children, and recommended his wife to his protection; and as he would inherit his estate, to take care of their common sisters: but all he could say could not make the younger desist. This was a scene of tenderness, that must fill any breast, susceptible of generous impressions, with pity. At last, the constancy of the elder brother yielded to the piety of the other; he acquiesced

elced and suffered the gallant youth to supply his place, who being cast into the sea, and a good swimmer, soon got to the stern of the pinnace, and laid hold of the rudder with his right-hand, which being perceived by one of the sailors, he cut off the hand with a cut-lafs; then dropping into the sea, he caught again hold with his left, which received the same fate by a second blow; thus dismembered of both hands, he made a shift, notwithstanding, to keep himself above water with his feet, and two stumps, which he held, bleeding upwards.

This moving spectacle so raised the pity of the whole company, that they cried out ' he ' is but one man, let us endeavour to save his ' life,' and he was accordingly taken into the boat; where he had his hands bound up as well as the place and circumstances would permit. They rowed all that night, and next morning, when the sun arose, as if heaven would reward the gallantry and piety of this young man, they descried land, which proved to be the mountains Mozambique, in Africa, not far from a Portugueze colony. Thither they all safely arrived, where they remained, until the next ships from Lisbon passed by, and carried them to Goa; at which city Linschotten, a writer of good credit and esteem, assures us, that he himself saw them land, supped with the two brothers that very night,

night, beheld the younger with his stumps, and had the story from both their mouths; as well as from the rest of the company.

The REWARD *of* AVARICE.

MONS. Foscue, one of the farmers general of the province of Languedoc in France, who had amassed a considerable wealth by grinding the faces of the poor within his province, and every other means however low, base, or cruel, by which he rendered himself universally hated, was one day ordered by the government to raise a considerable sum: upon which, as an excuse for not complying with the demand, he pleaded extreme poverty; but fearing lest some of the inhabitants of Languedoc should give information to the contrary, and his house should be searched, he resolved on hiding his treasure in such a manner, as to escape the most strict examination. For that purpose he dug a kind of cave in his wine cellar, which he made so large and deep, that he used to go down to it with a ladder; at the entrance was a door with a spring-lock on it, which on shutting would fasten of itself. All at once Mons. Foscue was missing; diligent search was made after him in every place; the ponds were drawn, and every method, which human imagination

imagination could suggest, was taken to find him, but all in vain.

In a short time after, his house was sold, and the purchaser beginning either to rebuild it, or make some alteration in it, the workmen discovered a door in the cellar, with a key in the lock, which he ordered to be opened, and on going down they found Monsr. Foscue lying dead on the ground, with a candlestick near him, but no candle in it, which he had eat; and on searching farther, they found the vast wealth that he had amassed. It is supposed that when Monsr. Foscue went into his cave, the door by some accident shut after him, and being out of the call of any person, he perished for want of food. He had gnawed the flesh off both his arms, as is supposed for subsistence. Thus did this miser die in the midst of his treasure, to the scandal of himself, and to the prejudice of the state.

The Comical Revenge.

WHEN the duke of Alva went to Brussels, about the beginning of the tumults in the Netherlands, he had fate down before Hulst in Flanders, and there was a Provost-marshal in his army, who was a favourite of his; and this Provost had put some to death by secret commission from the duke.

duke. There was one Captain Bolea in the army, who was an intimate friend of the Provost's; and one evening late he went to the Captain's tent, and brought with him a confessor and an executioner, as it was his custom; he told the captain that he was come to execute his excellency's commission and martial law upon him: the captain started up suddenly, his hair standing an end, and being struck with amazement, asked him wherein he had offended the duke: the provost answered, Sir, I come not to expostulate the business with you, but to execute my commission; therefore, I pray, prepare yourself, for their's your ghostly father and executioner: so he fell upon his knees before the priest, and having done, the hangman going to put the halter about his neck, the provost threw it away, and breaking into a laughter, told him, there was no such thing, and that he had done this only to try his courage, how he could bear the terror of death. The captain looked ghastly upon him, and said, then, Sir, get out of my tent, for you have done me a very ill office. The next morning the said Captain Bolea, though a young man of about thirty, had his hair all turned grey, to the admiration of all who knew him, and the duke of Alva himself, who questioned him about it, but he would confess nothing. The next year the duke was revok'd, and in his journey to the court of Spain he was to pass

by Saragossa, and this captain, and the provost went with him as his domesticks. The duke being to repose some days in Saragossa, the young-old captain Bolea told him there was a thing in that town worthy to be seen by his excellency, which was a "Casa de locos, or "Bedlam-house," for there was not the like in christendom: well, said the duke, go and tell the warden I will be there to-morrow in the afternoon, and wish him to be in the way. The captain having obtained this, went to the warden, and told him, that the duke would come to visit the house the next day; and the chiefest occasion that moved him to it was, that he had an unruly provost about him, who was subject oftentimes to fits of frenzy; and because he wisheth him well, he hath try'd divers means to cure him, but all would not do; therefore he would try whether keeping him close in Bedlam for some days would do him any good. The next day the duke came with a long train of captains after him, among whom was the said provost very shining and brave; being entered in the house about the duke's person, captain Bolea told the warden (pointing at the provost) that's the man; so he took him aside into a dark lobby, where he had placed some of his men, who muffled him in a cloak, seized upon his gilt sword, with his hat and feather, and so hurried him down into a dungeon. My provost had lain there two nights and a day when a gentleman

gentleman happening to come out of curiosity to see the house, peeped in at a small grate where the provost was: the provost conjured him as a christian, to go and tell the duke of Alva his provost was there confined, nor could he imagine why. The gentleman did the errand; whereat the duke being astonished, sent for the warden with his prisoner: so he brought my provost, madman like, full of straw and feathers, before the duke; who at the sight of him breaking out into a laughter, asked the warden why he had made him his prisoner. Sir, says the warden, 'twas by virtue of your excellency's commission brought me by captain Bolea. Bolea step'd forth, and told the duke, Sir, you have asked me often how these hairs of mine grew so suddenly grey; I have not revealed it yet to any soul breathing, but now I will tell your excellency; and so related the passage in Flanders: and, Sir, I have been ever since beating my brains how to get an equal revenge of him, and I thought no revenge to be more equal or corresponding, now that you see he hath made me old before my time, than to make him mad if I could; and had he staid some days longer close prisoner in Bedlam-house, it might haply have wrought some impressions upon his Pericranium. The duke was so well pleased with the story, and the wittyness of the revenge, that he made them both friends, and gave them a greater share of his favour.

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The Comical Punishment.

ABOUT twenty years ago, an honest sober lad was put apprentice to a mercer on Ludgate-hill. The master observing him diligent in his business, and civil in his deportment, reposed in him an intire confidence, left his whole trade to his direction, and gave him liberty at any time to spend an evening among his friends, which had liked to have proved fatal. One night a woman picked him up in Fleet-street, and prevailed upon him to take her home with him. After they had been in bed (in the shop) about an hour, he put a crown in her hand, and desired her to go away, which she positively refused, unless he would cut her off enough satin to make her a gown and coat; nay, swore, if he would give her twenty guineas, she would not stir without a suit of cloaths. He reasoned, threatened, and entreated, but to no purpose. The dispute continued till the shop-porter knocked at the door to take goods that were ordered out early. He was now at his wits end; at last concluded to let the fellow into the secret; accordingly told him the story; the porter persuaded, but in vain. At last clapped his handkerchief into her mouth at unawares, tied her hands and feet together, put her into his sack naked as she was, which, hoisting on his back, carried to Fleet-market; seeing

seeing a cart of pease with nobody near it, tossed up his burden, and sneaked off. The owner of the cart coming soon after, flung down the sack upon the stones, crying, "What o' plague! is there no place to put your hog but among my pease?" Upon opening the sack, the poor wretch was almost expiring for want of breath. When the porter brought this account, the apprentice gave him her cloaths she had left, and three guineas he had offered her for his pains.

An affecting Story.

A POOR idle drunken weaver in Spital-Fields had a faithful and laborious wife, who, by her frugality and industry, had laid by her as much money as purchased her a ticket in a late lottery. She had hid this very privately in the bottom of a trunk, and had given her number to a friend and confidant, who had promised to keep the secret, and bring her news of the success. The poor adventurer chanced one day to go abroad, when her careless husband, suspecting she had saved some money, searches every corner, till at length he finds this same ticket, which he immediately seizes, sells, and squanders away the money, without the wife suspecting any thing

thing of the matter. A day or two afterwards, this friend, who was a woman, comes and brings the wife word, that she had a prize of five hundred pounds. The poor creature, overjoyed, flies up stairs to her husband, who was then at work, and desires him to leave his loom for that evening, and come and drink with a friend of his and her's below. The man received this chearful invitation as bad husbands sometimes do, and, after a cross word, told her he would not come. His wife with tenderness renewed her importunity, and at length said to him, my love, I have within these few months, unknown to you, scraped together as much money as has bought us a ticket in the lottery, and now here is Mrs. Quick come to tell me, that it is come up this morning a five hundred pound prize. The husband replies immediately, you lye, you slut, you have no ticket, for I have sold it. The poor woman, upon this, fainted away in a fit, recovered, and immediately run distracted. As she had no design to defraud her husband, but was willing only to participate in his good fortune, every one will naturally pity her, but think her husband's punishment but just.

*The ANCHORITE and ANGEL; or a
Vindication of Providence.*

AN holy Anchorite being in a wilderness, among other contemplations, began admiring the method of providence, how out of causes which seem bad to us he produceth oftentimes good effects; how he suffers virtuous, loyal and religious men to be oppressed, and others to prosper. As he was transported with these ideas, a goodly young man appeared to him: father, said he, I know your thoughts are distracted, and I am sent to quiet them; therefore if you will accompany me a few days, you shall return very well satisfied of those doubts which now encumber your mind. So going along with him, they went to pass over a deep river, whereon there was a narrow bridge; and meeting there with another passenger, the young man jostled him into the water, and so drowned him. The old Anchorite being much astonished thereat, would have left him; but his guide said, father, be not amazed, because I shall give you good reasons for what I do, and you shall see stranger things than this before you and I part; but at last I shall settle your judgment, and put your mind in full repose. So going that night to lodge in an inn where there was a crew of banditti, and debauched ruffians,

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the young man struck into their company, and revelled with them till the morning, while the Anchorite spent most of the night in numbering his beads; but as soon as they were departed thence, they met with some officers who went to apprehend that crew of banditti they had left behind them. The next day they came to a gentleman's house, which was a fair place, where they received all the courteous hospitality that could be; but in the morning as they parted, there was a child in a cradle, which was the only son of the gentleman; and the young man spying his opportunity, strangled the child, and so got away. The third day they came to another inn, where the man of the house treated them with all the civility that could be, and gratis; yet the young man embezzled a silver goblet, and carried it away in his pocket, which still increased the amazement of the Anchorite. The fourth day in the evening they came to lodge at another inn, where the host was very sullen, and uncivil to him, exacting much more than the value of what they had spent; yet at parting the young man bestowed upon him the silver goblet he had stolen from that host who had used them so kindly. The fifth day they made towards a great rich town; but some miles before they came at it, they met with a merchant at the close of the day, who had a great charge of money about him; and asking the next passage
to

to the town, the young man put him in a clean contrary way. The Anchorite and his guide being come to the town, at the gate they espied a devil, who lay as it were centinel, but he was asleep: they found also both men and women at sundry kinds of sports, some dancing, others singing, with divers sorts of revellings. They went afterwards to a convent of Capuchins, where, about the gate they found legions of devils laying siege to that monastery, yet they got in and lodged there that night. Being awaked the next morning, the young man came to that cell where the Anchorite was lodged, and told him, I know your heart is full of horror, and your head full of confusion, astonishments, and doubts, from what you have seen since the first time of our association. But know, I am an angel sent from heaven to rectify your judgment, as also to correct a little your curiosity in researches of the ways and acts of providence too far; for though separately they seem strange to the shallow apprehension of man, yet conjunctly they all tend to produce good effects.

The man which I tumbled into the river was an act of providence; for he was going upon a most mischievous design, that would have damnified not only his own soul, but destroyed the party against whom it was intended; therefore I prevented it.

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The cause why I conversed all night with that crew of rogues, was also an act of providence, for they intended to go a robbing all that night; but I kept them there purposely till the next morning, that the hand of justice might seize upon them.

Touching the kind host from whom I took a silver goblet, and the clownish or knavish host to whom I gave it; let this demonstrate to you, that good men are liable to crosses and losses, whereof bad men oftentimes reap the benefit; but it commonly produceth patience in the one, and pride in the other.

Concerning that noble gentleman whose child I strangled after so courteous an entertainment, know, that also was an act of providence; for the gentleman was so indulgent and doating on that child that it lessened his love to heaven; so I took away the cause.

Touching the merchant whom I misguided on his way, it was likewise an act of providence; for had he gone the direct way to this town, he had been robbed, and his throat cut; therefore I preserved him by that deviation.

Now concerning this great luxurious city, whereas we spied but one devil who lay asleep without the gate, there being so many about this poor convent; you must consider, that Lucifer being already assured of that riotous town by corrupting their manners every day more and more, he needs but one centinel to
secure

secure it : but for this holy place of retirement, this monastery inhabited by so many devout souls, who spend their whole lives in acts of mortification, as exercises of piety and penance, he hath brought so many legions to beleaguer them ; yet he can do no good upon them, for they bear up against him most undauntedly, and maugre all his infernal power and stratagems.

The Folly of Discontent.

IAM inclined to think that the misfortunes, as they are termed, of life, are not so often owing to the want of care, as the having too much, and being over-sollicitous to acquire, what nature, the great substitute of heaven, would effect for us, if we would be contented to follow her dictates. The brutes, led on by that inward impulse we call instinct, never err in their pursuit of what is good for them ; but man, enlightened by reason, that particular mark of Providence, which distinguishes him from the rest of beings, obstinately refuses to be conducted to happiness, and travels towards misery with labour and fatigue. 'Twould be absurd to say a rational creature would voluntarily chuse misery, but we too frequently do it blindly. Every thing, as the philosophical emperor

emperor observes, is fancy ; but as that fancy is in our own power to govern, we are justly punished if we suffer it to wander at will ; or industriously set it to work to deceive us into uneasiness. The most sure and speedy way to detect any mental impostor, is by soliloquy or self-examination, in the way laid down by our great restorer of antient learning : if our fancy stands the test of this mirror, which represents all objects in their true colours, 'tis genuine, and may be accepted by the mind with safety ; but if it recedes from the tryal, or changes in the attempt, 'tis spurious, and ought to be rejected. This will inform us, that the great mistake of mankind in their pursuit after happiness, is casting their looks at a distance for lands of paradise, whilst the prospect, so much sought after, blooms unbeheld around them.

At Ispahan in Persia, there lived a young man of a noble family and great fortune, named Achmet, who from his infancy shewed the earliest signs of a restless turbulent spirit ; and though by nature endowed with an understanding superior to any of his age, was led away with every gust of passion to precipitate himself into the greatest dangers. After having a little experienced the misfortunes that accrue from such a disposition, he became somewhat more diffident of his own abilities, and determined to take the advice of those who had been more conversant with
human

human nature, how to proceed for the future. There dwelt not far from the city, in a little cell among a ridge of mountains, an old hermit, who many years before had retired from the world to that place, to spend the rest of his days in prayer and contemplation. This good man became so famous through the country for his exemplary life, that if any one had any uneasiness of mind, he immediately went to Abudah, (for so he was called) and never failed of receiving consolation, in the deepest affliction, from his prudent counsel; which made the superstitious imagine, that there was a charm in the sound of his words to drive away despair and all her gloomy attendants. Hither Achmet repaired, and as he was entering a grove near the sage's habitation, met, according to his wishes, the venerable recluse; he prostrated himself before him, and with signs of the utmost anguish, "Behold, said he, O divine Abudah, favourite of our mighty prophet, who resemblest Allha by distributing the balm of comfort to the distressed, behold the most miserable of mortals."—He was going on, when the old man, deeply affected with his lamentations, interrupted him, and taking him by the hand, "rise, my son, said he, let me know the cause of thy misfortunes, and whatever is in my power shall be done to restore thee to tranquility." "Alas! replied Achmet, how can I be re-

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stored

“ stored to that which I never yet possessed!
 “ for know, thou enlightened judge of the
 “ faithful, I never have spent an easy moment
 “ that I can remember, since reason first
 “ dawned upon my mind; hitherto, even
 “ from my cradle, a thousand fancies have
 “ attended me through life, and are continu-
 “ ally, under the false appearances of happi-
 “ nefs, deceiving me into anxiety, whilst
 “ others are enjoying the most undisturbed
 “ repose. Tell me then, I conjure thee by
 “ the holy temple of Mecca, from whence
 “ thy prayers have been so often carried to
 “ Mahomet by the ministers of Paradise, by
 “ what method I may arrive, if not at the
 “ sacred tranquillity thou enjoyest, yet at the
 “ harbour of such earthly peace as the holy
 “ Koran hath promised to all those that obey
 “ its celestial precepts; for sure the damn’d,
 “ who remove alternately from the different
 “ extremes of chilling frosts and scorching
 “ flames, cannot suffer greater torments than
 “ I undergo at present.” Abudah, perceiv-
 “ ing that a discontented mind alone was the
 “ source of the young man’s troubles: “ he
 “ comforted, my son, said he, for a time shall
 “ come, by the will of heaven, when thou
 “ shalt receive the reward of a true believer,
 “ and be freed from all thy misfortunes; but
 “ thou must still undergo many more, before
 “ thou canst be numbered with the truly
 “ happy. Thou enquirest of me where hap-
 “ piness

"piness dwells. Look round the world, and
 "see in how many different scenes she has
 "taken up her residence; sometimes, thou h
 "very rarely, in a palace: often in a cottage;
 "the philosopher's cave of retirement, and
 "the soldier's tent amidst the noise and
 "dangers of war, are by turns her habitation;
 "the rich man may see her in his treasures,
 "and the beggar in his wallet. In all these
 "stations she is to be found, but in none alto-
 "gether. Go then and seek thy fortune
 "among the various scenes of the world and
 "if thou shouldst prove unsuccessful in this
 "probationary expedition, return to me
 "when seven years are expired, when the
 "passions of youth begin to subside, and I
 "will instruct thee by a religious emblem,
 "which our great prophet shewed me in a
 "dream, how to obtain the end of all thy
 "wishes." Achmet not understanding Abu-
 dah's meaning, left him as discontented as
 he came, and returned to Ispahan with a full
 resolution of gratifying every inclination of
 pleasure or ambition, imagining one of these
 must be the road to felicity. Accordingly he
 gave up his first years entirely to those enjoy-
 ments which enervate both body and mind;
 but finding at length no real satisfaction in
 these, but rather diseases and disappointments,
 he changed his course of life, and followed the
 dictates of avarice, that was continually offer-
 ing to his eyes external happiness seated on a
 P 2 throne

throne of gold. His endeavours succeeded, and by the assistance of fortune he became the richest subject of the east. Still something was wanting. Power and honour presented themselves to his view, and wholly engaged his attention. These desires did not remain long unsatisfied, for by the favour of the Sophy he was advanced to the highest dignities of the Persian empire. But alas! he was still never the nearer to the primary object of his most ardent wishes! fears, doubts, and a thousand different anxieties that attend the great, perpetually haunted him, and made him seek again the calm retirement of a rural life. Nor was the latter productive of any more comfort than the former stations: in short, being disappointed, and finding happiness in no one condition, he sought the hermit a second time, to complain of his fate, and claim the promise he had received before the beginning of his adventures. Abudah seeing his disciple return again after the stated time, still discontented, took him by the hand, and smiling upon him with an air of gentle reproof, "Achmet, said he, cease to blame the
 "fates for the uneasiness which arises alone
 "from thy own breast; behold, since thou
 "hast performed the task I enjoined in order
 "to make thee more capable of following my
 "future instructions, I will unfold to thee
 "the grand mystery of wisdom, by which she
 "leads her votaries to happiness. See (said
 "he,

“ he, pointing to a river in which several
 “ young swans were eagerly swimming after
 “ their own shadows in the stream) those silly
 “ birds imitate mankind; they are in pursuit
 “ of that which their own motion puts to
 “ flight: behold others which have tired them-
 “ selves with their unnecessary labours, and
 “ sitting still, are in possession of what their
 “ utmost endeavours could never have ac-
 “ complished. Thus, my son, happiness is
 “ the shadow of contentment, and rests or
 “ moves for ever with its original.”

Uncommon Instance of Humanity.

THERE was a certain merchant who
 had two sons, the eldest of whom be-
 ing of an evil disposition, used to behave
 with great hatred and spitefulness towards the
 younger, who was of a temper more mild and
 gentle. It happened that the old gentleman
 having by his trade acquired a large estate,
 left it by his will to his eldest son, together
 with all his ships and stock in merchandize,
 willing him to continue on the business, and
 to support his brother. But he was no sooner
 dead, than the elder began more plainly than
 ever to discover his ill-will towards his brother;
 and with great cruelty put him out of the
 house, and without giving him any thing for

his support, turned him loose into the wide world. The young man was much grieved with this usage, yet considering that in his father's life-time he had acquired some knowledge in business, applied himself to a neighbouring merchant, offering to serve him in the way of trade. The merchant received him into his house, and finding him to be useful and diligent in business, bestowed upon him in marriage his daughter, who was his only child; and when he died, bequeathed to him his whole fortune. The young man, after the death of his father-in-law, retired with his wife into a distant country, where he purchased a noble house, and lived with great credit and reputation.

The elder brother had after the death of their father carried on the trade, and, for some time, met with great success in it. But at length, a violent storm arising, tore to pieces many of his ships which were coming home richly laden, and about the same time some persons sailing, who had much of his money in their hands, he was reduced to great want. And to compleat his misfortunes, the little which he had left at home, was consumed by a sudden fire which burnt his house, and every thing that was in it, so that he was brought quite into a state of beggary.

In this forlorn condition, he had no other resource to keep himself from starving, than to wander up and down the country, implor-
ing

ing the assistance of well-disposed persons. It happened one day, that having travelled many miles, and obtained but little relief, he espied a gentleman walking in the fields not far from a fine seat. To this gentleman he addressed himself, and having laid before him his misfortunes, and his present necessitous condition, he earnestly intreated him for some assistance. The gentleman, who was indeed his younger brother, did not at first recollect him, but after some discourse with him he perceived that it was his brother. However, concealing his knowledge of him, he directed him to follow him home, and when they came in, he ordered the servants to take care of him, and to furnish him for that night with lodging and victuals. In the mean while he resolved in his own mind to make himself known to him the next morning, and to make an offer to him of a constant habitation and allowance in his house. But first discoursing the matter over with his wife, she, who was a woman of much benevolence, came entirely into the proposal. Accordingly, the next morning he ordered the poor man to be sent for. When he was come into his presence, he asked if he knew him. The poor man answered, he did not. I am, says he, bursting into tears, your brother, and immediately fell upon his neck with great tenderness. The elder, quite astonished at this accident, fell to the ground, and began to make many excuses

cuses and to beg pardon for his former cruel behaviour. To whom the other answered, brother let us forget those things. I heartily forgive you all that is past. You need not range up and down the world in this distressed condition. You shall be welcome to live with me. He accepted this proposal, and they lived together in plenty and great friendship till death.

The female Impostor.

A KING of Persia, who was in the sixty-third year of his age, grew so dotingly fond of one of his concubines, a fair Circassian named Roxana, that he obliged himself, by a solemn oath, never to refuse her any thing she should request of him. The lady made her advantage of this monarch's weakness, and every day, by some new and extravagant demand, took occasion to gratify her ambition, her avarice, or her revenge. During the career of her power, a certain European merchant, whod had sold her some jewels, in order to engage her interest at court, made her a present of a beautiful little dog, which had been taught to dance, and play a thousand antick tricks. In a short time, Roxana became as fond of her dog, as the king was of her; only she lamented, that the little creature

ture was not endowed with speech, and could not therefore make a proper reply to those endearing expressions she used as often as she caressed him. One of her eunuchs, then present, told her, she need not grieve on this account; for he knew a philosopher, named Hali, then living in the suburbs of Ispahan, who could teach her dog to speak the Persian language as articulately as he spoke it himself. Hali was immediately sent for, made acquainted with his business, and required to attend the next morning to give the dog his first lesson. It was in vain for the poor man to remonstrate against the possibility of such an undertaking. He was answered, it was the king's command, and must not be disputed: that if he performed it in thirty days, he should be amply rewarded: if he failed he should lose his head.

Hali, we may imagine, considered the king's command as the artifice of his enemies, and as a trap layed for his life. He communicated his distress to his eldest son, a youth of nineteen, of a ready wit and excellent parts, a most engaging manner of address, a great sweetness of temper, and a beautiful person. Mirza (for that was his name) burst into tears when he heard the king's orders; but, immediately recovering himself, he told his father he had thought of a certain method to divert the danger.

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For this purpose, he desired Hali to present him the next morning to the chief eunuch, as his daughter, and as a person well instructed in her father's art, and who would engage, at the hazard of her own life, as well as his, to execute the king's injunction. Hali looked upon his son with amazement, and persuading himself, that he spoke by the inspiration of the prophet, he made no difficulty of complying with young Mirza's request.

Accordingly, next morning, Mirza, disguised in a virgin's habit, was conducted to the chief eunuch, and by him led into Roxana's apartment; where he performed his part so well, that, before the month expired, it was reported all over the seraglio, that the philosopher's daughter had taught the little dog not only to speak, but to speak like a wise man, and answer pertinently to every question. The king would needs be assured of the truth of this prodigy. He made a visit to his favourite. She confirmed the report; and the dog, being presented to him, was commanded to give a proof of his extraordinary talents, by answering respectfully whatever the king should be pleased to ask him.

The monarch seated himself on a sofa, and taking the dog in his arms, gently stroked his head, and then he proposed this question; say, thou pretty animal, who am I? After a short silence, Roxana intreated the king to
tell

tell her, if he was not highly delighted with the answer which the little beast had made him? and whether he could ever have believed the thing, if he had not heard it? The king protested he had not heard a word. At which Roxana seemed much concerned, and looking earnestly in the king's face, demanded again, if his majesty had not heard the dog answer him in the words following? You are the son of the sun, the lieutenant of the prophets, and the king of kings; you are dreaded by your enemies, adored by your subjects, and passionately beloved by my fair mistress.

The king of Persia rose up amazed and confounded; but still insisting he did not hear the dog speak, Roxana lifted up her hands, and thus addressed herself to Mahomet. "Thou messenger of God, protect
 " and defend the king. Increase his honour,
 " lengthen his life, preserve his understand-
 " ing, and open his ears; and, O never let
 " him feel the infirmities of old age." Then, the dog being ordered to speak a little louder, she begged the king to make a second trial, which he did with great success. For he now declared, he heard the little creature distinctly utter every word, just as Roxana had before repeated.

This occasioned a universal joy in the seraglio. Nothing was talked of for some days but the speaking dog. His answer to the king
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was written in letters of gold, and preserved in the archives of the empire. The pretended daughter of Hali was dismissed with a noble reward; and her father was soon afterwards promoted to one of the best governments in Persia.

The author of this tale concludes it with the following reflection. Old age very seldom proves a blessing to great men, especially to those who have any share in the government of the world. The Persian monarch, who ruled so many nations, and esteemed himself a favourite of heaven, and the first man in the universe, was not permitted the use of his eyes or ears. He was the dupe of his slave, and the jest of his whole court: but no one durst tell him so; and he died without knowing it.

Luxury in Eating condemn'd. A Persian Story.

SCHAH Abbas, at the beginning of his reign, was more luxurious than became so great a prince: one might have judged of the vastness of his empire by the variety of dishes at his table; some were sent him from the Tigris; some from the Euphrates; others from Oxus and the Caspian sea: one day when he gave a dinner to his nobles, Mahomet

hommet Ali, keeper of the three tombs, was placed next to the best dish of all the feast, out of respect for the sanctity of his office; but instead of falling to and eating heartily, as holy men are wont to do, he fetched a dismal groan and fell a weeping. Schah Abbas, surprized at his behaviour, desired him to explain it to the company; he would fain have been excused, but the Sophi ordered him on pain of displeasure to acquaint him with the cause of his disorder.

Know then, said he, O monarch of the earth, that when I saw thy table covered in this manner, it brought to my mind a dream, or rather a vision, which was sent me from the prophet whom I serve. On the seventh night of the moon Rhamazan, I was sleeping under the shade of the sacred tombs, when, methought, the holy ravens of the sanctuary bore me up on their wings into the air, and in a few moments conveyed me to the lowest heavens, where the messenger of God, on whom be peace, was sitting in his luminous tribunal, to receive petitions from the earth. Around him stood an infinite throng of animals, of every species and quality, which all joined in preferring a complaint against the Schah Abbas, for destroying them wantonly and tyrannically, beyond what any necessity could justify, or any natural appetite demand.

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It was alledged by them, that ten or twelve of them were often murdered to compose one dish for the niceness of thy palate; some gave their tongues only, some their bowels, some their fat, and others their brains or blood. In short, they declared such constant waste was made of them, that unless a stop was put to it in time, they should perish entirely by gluttony. The prophet hearing this, bent his brows, and ordered six Vultures to fetch thee alive before him. They instantly brought thee to his tribunal, where he commanded thy stomach to be opened, to see whether it was bigger or more capacious than those of other men; when it was found to be just of the common size, he permitted all the animals to make reprizals on the body of their destroyer; but before one in ten thousand could get at thee, every particle of it was devoured; so ill proportioned was the offender to the offence.

This story made such an impression on the Sophi, that he would not suffer above one dish of meat to be brought to his table ever after.

The Picture of GOOD-MANNERS.

NOTHING is unworthy of publication which may convey a useful lesson to mankind. Sir William Gooch being in conversation with a gentleman in a street of the city of Williamsburgh, returned the salute of a negro, who was passing by about his master's business. Sir, said the gentleman, does your honour descend so far as to salute a slave? Why (replied the governor) yes; I cannot suffer a man of his condition to exceed me in good manners.

Never was reprimand more delicate.

The MARINE BEAUTY, or the INFATUATED ENAMORATA.

WHAT odd, unaccountable creatures are the generality of mankind! Poor thoughtless animals! where lies your imaginary elysium? your fancied seat of bliss? You buoy yourselves up with the pleasing hope, the fond desire, the longing after what you call fruition; and when you are once possessed of the dear object of your wishes, your keen appetite is soon palled and nauseates what you once doated on; you are for ever complaining; and, in short, are the most

unhappy wretches under the sun : your brains are addled, and gone a wool gathering: you have formed ten thousand airy projects, which prove of no other service than to vex and torment you. When shall I be this, that, and t'other ? O ! that I could but accomplish the view I have in my eye ! these are your daily and most ardent exclamations. Jove, with indulgence, smiles at your vain petition, and at once grants it to gratify your capricious humours. The very next day you sue for new favours, and, Ixion like, you embrace a cloud instead of a goddess. Where lies the unhappy delusion ? not in the nature of the thing itself, but in your own wild and roving imagination. You know not, in reality, what you aim at.

All things here on earth have two widely distant faces : the one all charming, infinitely agreeable and delightful: and the other, in all respects, hideous and abhorrent. No sooner, however, have you got the former into your possession, but the scene is instantly shifted. How deformed does it then appear ! with what horror does it strike the fancy ! what you so eagerly grasp at is viewed through one end of the perspective, when that you stand actually possessed of is gazed at thro' the other.

Once upon a time, there was a young giddy-brained inamorata, so very rash and foolish as to doat upon a Mermaid. He was
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for ever sauntering on the sea shore, fetching such deep sighs as if his heart was just a breaking, and casting, at the same time, the most amorous and languishing glances on the dear watery goddess he adored. He was so riveted to his happy situation, that he could scarce prevail with himself to quit the enchanted spot, though he saw the sun actually sunk down into the ocean, and the dark night making her hasty approaches.

At last, though with the utmost reluctance, he returns home, but when in bed, and even at the noon of night, he is perfectly restless and can find no manner of repose. Soft downy slumbers never close his weary eyelids. His thoughts are wholly intent on the dear object he left behind him with the utmost regret.

Every moment seems an age till the sun has cheared the east with his refulgent rays, and favoured him with a fresh opportunity of paying his beauteous and fondly beloved Siren another visit.

He raves, and cries out in his extatic fits :

Ye gods ! what eyes ! what brilliant eyes are there !
That face ! that neck ! those breasts ! that shape, that
air !

O ! how transporting ! how divinely fair !
The Cyprian goddess has not half those charms,
O ! give her, Neptune, to my longing arms !

The God, indulgent, listens to his prayer,
Calls Hymen up to join the enamour'd pair.

Our warm, successful lover pays his tribute of divine adoration and thanksgiving, not only to the indulgent deity, but to his ever adorable mistress, for their mutual condescension. No sooner was the earth involved in darkness, but consummation instantly ensued. Words are too weak to express the transport of the marriage bed.

His bliss, his heaven in short, is folded in her arms : but how transitory, alas ! how precarious are all sublunary enjoyments ! how soon is his bowl of joy dashed with gall by some left-handed god ! the very next morning he finds, that, instead of a Venus he has embraced a monster.

The Application. Poor disappointed wretch ! thy aversion immediately rises in proportion to thy unutterable raptures. Before fruition, whilst thou wast blinded by thy inordinate and unruly passion, thou couldst see and admire nothing but thy Siren's enchanting eyes and shape ; but afterwards, when the rage and fury of thy love was once abated ; when thou hadst a few moments time for recollection ; thy visive faculty was soon restored ; and then, but not till then, thou couldst clearly discern her scales and tail, with the utmost horror and detestation.

Instance of Arrogance.

SESOSTRIS, a king of Egypt, whose pride and ambition carried him to the utmost extent, obliged four or more of his tributary kings to be yoked in his chariot, and to draw him, instead of horses, on certain occasions; but he was cured of that piece of arrogance before he died, by a keen reflection of one of those kings, whom observing with great steadfastness, looking back upon the wheel, Sesostris asked the subject of his thoughts on that occasion, to which the tributary prince replied, "The going round of the wheel, O, king! calls to my mind the vicissitudes of fortune; for as every part of the wheel is uppermost and lowermost by turns, so it is with kings, who one day sit on the throne, and on the next are reduced to the lowest degree of slavery." This wrought so upon the king, that he left off the inhuman practice of subjugating mankind to the yoke ever after.

The School of ADVERSITY. An Indian Story.

KALAHAD, a monarch of Indostan, reigned gloriously over a happy people, and seemed to want nothing to render his felicity

licity complete, but a son to sway his sceptre, and perpetuate his virtues. To obtain this happiness was therefore his constant wish, and for which he incessantly offered up his prayers to the Deity ; but for some years the son so earnestly requested was denied. At last, as he was one day enjoying the coolness of the air in an arbour erected in a thick grove of citron-trees, he fell into a slumber, and thought he was watering a vast cedar, from whose root there issued a large flame, which devoured all the trees of the adjacent forest.

A dream so uncommon filled his mind with various conjectures, and rendered him very solicitous of knowing what it portended. Accordingly, he sent for Chimas, his prime minister, and the most learned of all the sages of Indostan, to explain this vision. Chimas listened with profound attention to his master, and, when he had finished the relation, told him he would shortly have a son ; but declined the interpretation of the other particulars till the next day, when all the sages of the kingdom were summoned to attend at the king's palace.

They did not fail to obey the commands of their monarch ; and, in the midst of this assembly, Chimas confirmed the approaching birth of a prince ; but refused to explain the meaning of the flame which issued from the root of the tree, unless the king would promise not to be angry at what he was going to reveal.

veal. His majesty very readily gave his royal word, not to resent any thing that might fall from him in explaining this mysterious particular.

Chimas having thus obtained the royal promise, addressed himself in the following manner to his master : “ Thy reign, O powerful monarch of Indostan ! hath been blessed with every thing thou couldst ask, or thy imagination conceive, except in having a son to sway thy sceptre, and govern the people of thy extensive dominions. Now heaven is going to add this gift to all the former, and convince thee, that the prayers of the virtuous are never offered in vain. But listen with attention to what I am now going to reveal. This son, who will abound in knowledge, and whose wisdom will resemble the flame that at once enlightens and cherishes, will prove the scourge of his subjects, exercise every kind of cruelty, and even massacre all the learned men in his kingdom : so incapable are mortals of knowing what will prove really advantageous to them, and of forming wishes to augment their happiness, unless assisted with wisdom from on high. But his tyranny will not always continue ; adversity, which often teacheth mortals their errors, and turns their feet from the paths of vice to those of virtue, will force him to reflect on his actions, convince him of their enormity, and cause a total change in his conduct. Happiness will
again

again smile in every habitation, and spread her wings over the desolated banks of the Ganges. The mouths that uttered the most dreadful imprecations on the head of their monarch, shall be filled with blessings, and the lisping tongues of infants shall be employed in wishing him every kind of prosperity.

“Such are the decrees of Providence; and surely he best knows what is most proper for the children of men. Therefore, O mighty Kalahad, who now fillest the throne of Indostan, and at whose footstool the Kings of the East pay obedience, let not sorrow fill thy royal breast; the miseries of thy kingdom will not long continue; that Being who formed the universe, who causeth the sun to rise, and the refreshing showers of rain to fall on the thirsty land, will protect thy people, and teach the sons of mortals, that those who honour virtue are his peculiar care. Misery and distress may indeed for a short time surround their habitations, but will soon be succeeded by joy and gladness. They will vanish at the return of the prince to the paths of virtue, like darkness at the appearance of the rays of the morning.”

The King, at hearing this interpretation of his dream, was filled with indignation, and told Chimas, that if he had not given his royal word that nothing should excite his rage, he would have punished him with the
utmost

utmost severity. So unexpected an answer, induced the sage to relate the following fable.

“ A cat, pinched by hunger, left the house where she had long continued, in search of sustenance. After a tedious journey, during which a heavy shower of rain had fallen, she discovered a rat, lodged in an adjacent rock. She approached him with the greatest signs of submission, and begged him to pity her distress. She described, in the most pathetic terms, and affecting tone of voice, the deplorable condition to which she was reduced; and assured him, that notwithstanding the natural antipathy that existed between them, his life should be in no danger. To which the rat replied, that he could not place any confidence in her fair speeches; and that he was fearful, if he relied on her protestations, of falling a victim to her hunger; adding, that he knew how imprudent it would be, to commit the sheep to the care of the wolf, or bring dry wood too near a large fire. The cat redoubled her intreaties, and made use of every argument to remove his fears: she told him, that if he was desirous of disarming an enemy, the best method was to embrace every opportunity of obliging him; and that a good action never failed of receiving its just reward. The rat answered, that he should, if he gave credit to her asseverations, resemble a man who thrusts his hand into the mouth of a viper. But the hypocritical cat continuing
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to repeat her vows of integrity, and resuming the plea of hospitality, the rat relented. Let me, said he to himself, preserve this poor wretch from destruction; let me do good even to an enemy, though I lose my life by performing it: the Deity will surely protect him who endeavours to imitate his benevolence. Accordingly, he granted the cat admittance; but no sooner had this perfidious creature recovered her strength, than she flew upon her host, with an intent to destroy him. Is this, exclaimed the rat, the manner in which you ratify your oaths? Is it thus you requite your benefactor, who commiserated your distress, and saved you from destruction? His exclamations, however, were disregarded, and he was almost expiring, when some hounds having espied the cat, mistook her for a fox, fell upon her, tore her to pieces, and delivered the hospitable rat."

Thus, added Chimas, it fares with those who violate their oaths. Justice from on high will overtake them; and when they think themselves secure from every danger, the fatal blow will be given, and from which it is impossible for any mortal to escape.

Soon after, Kalahad's consort proved with child, and at the expiration of the term was delivered of a prince. The whole care of the Indian monarch now, was to form, by the assistance of Chimas, a plan of education for his son. And during his infancy, he built a
palace

palace for him, consisting of 360 apartments, selected three of the most learned men of his kingdom, and, when the prince was twelve years old, placed him with his tutors in this splendid structure. The sages had strict orders not to shew their royal pupil too much indulgence, nor neglect any thing that might tend to his instruction. Over the door of each apartment was written the name of the science he was there to learn, and furnished with every thing that had a tendency to facilitate the study of the particular branch of literature to which it was appointed.

Nor was the care of his royal father bestowed in vain; he improved surprisngly in knowledge, and his application to study was unbounded. He was conducted once every week to the palace of his father, where the royal pupil was examined in the different branches of science he had studied; and every examination gave the whole court fresh cause for wonder and astonishment. In short, he soon equalled his tutors in wisdom, and his name was famous in every part of the Indies. But this did not satisfy his royal father; he was desirous that his son should be publicly examined by Chimas himself; and accordingly summoned all the viziers and learned men in his empire to attend at the palace on the day appointed for this august examination.

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Chimas,

Chimas, in order to display the great talents of the prince to advantage, in this grand and solemn act, employed all that his great learning and profound wisdom could suggest. He proposed an infinite number of questions in philosophy, morality, and politics; and the prince answered them with a superiority above all the sages of the East. Among other things, Chimas asked him, whether the soul underwent any punishment, or whether it deserved any reward; because in this habitation of clay we discover only a violent propensity to evil? The prince, as an answer to this question, related the following fable.

“ Two men, the one blind, and the other lame, were placed in a garden to take care of it; and, at the same time, strictly charged them not to touch any of the fruit. But as soon as the rays of the sun had ripened them, the cripple was very desirous of tasting, what he was commanded not to touch. An unfurmoutable difficulty, however, prevented him from indulging his appetite; the loss of his limbs rendered it impossible for him to climb the trees, or gather any of the fruit; he therefore had recourse to the blind man for assistance. The latter was surpris'd at the proposal, and represented to him, that he could not conceive how he could assist him in such an enterprize, as he was deprived of sight; adding, that as they were both placed in the garden to preserve the fruit, they

would,

would, by plucking what they were ordered to secure, shamefully disobey the command; of their master, and consequently could expect nothing less than the severest punishment. The lame man used several arguments to remove the scruples of his companion, and at last succeeded; when the blind man took him on his shoulders and carried him from tree to tree, while the cripple plucked the fruit. They had hardly satisfied their appetites, when the master came to take a view of his garden, and seeing the havock made in the fruit, was highly enraged. The two criminals would fain have excused themselves; the one alledging, that for want of limbs it was impossible for him to climb the trees; and the other, that, being denied the benefit of sight, it was absurd to think he had gathered the fruit. But the master was not to be so easily deceived; he soon gave them to understand, that he was no stranger to their stratagem, and the excuses they had formed to elude his enquiries. In short, the fact appeared so evident, that they could not deny it, and were both driven from the garden.

“ The blind man, continued the prince, is the body, which sees nothing but through the interposition of the soul, which, like the lame man, cannot move without the assistance of the other. The garden is the world, which all men are more or less anxious of enjoying. The master of the garden is the Conscience,

an impartial judge, placed by the Deity in the human breast, and which continually animates us to pursue the paths of virtue. The agreement made between the blind man and the cripple implies, that the body and soul concur together, to do good or evil, and consequently that they ought to share equally in the rewards or punishments."

Another question asked by Chimas was, Why the greatest men are sometimes guilty of the greatest excesses? To which the prince answered by the following apologue:

"A black eagle, soaring far above the clouds, thought himself safe from every danger. But a fowler, who had at a distance seen him ascend, took him for a kite, and fastened a piece of flesh to his nets. The eagle, whose great height prevented him from discerning the snare, though he saw the prey, resolved to possess it. Accordingly he darted from his height, like an arrow from an Indian bow, seized on the prey, but was taken in the snare of the fowler, who was surprised to find an eagle in a net he had spread only for small birds."

The prince having answered every question that had been proposed to him, was desirous of proposing some himself; and accordingly addressed several to the sagacious Chimas. But all his questions, like his answers, tended to prove, that his genius, his wisdom, and understanding, were equally admirable. Nor
were

were his questions low and puerile: on the contrary, they related to the sublimest subjects; the creation of the world, and of matter; the origin of moral evil; the source of the passions; the operations of the Deity on the human soul, and the depravity of nature, were the topics debated.

The exercise being ended, the King named his son for his successor; and when he was eighteen years of age, Kalahad, who found himself drawing near his end, resigned to him his crown, and caused him to be publicly acknowledged heir of all his dominions. Nor did he forget to give him, with his dying breath, the most wholesome advice.

“ My son, said he, the angel of death is now approaching, and in a few moments a breathless carcase will be all that remains of the once powerful Kalahad. Remember, therefore, my son, that thou must now govern this mighty empire alone. Chimas, whose wisdom, experience, and integrity, I have long known, will give thee the wisest counsel. Listen, my son, to his advice; he will direct thy steps, and never suffer thee to wander from the paths of virtue. Remember, O youthful monarch of Indostan, that thy example will influence multitudes of people; it will constitute either their happiness or misery. If thou art careful to direct thy paths by the precepts of reason, and to listen to the dictates of conscience; if thou art in-

defatigable in punishing oppressors, and those who wallow in wickedness, and careful to encourage virtue and merit wherever it be found; then shall happiness dwell in thy palaces, and plenty smile around thy habitations. Treachery shall be banished from the empire of Indostan, and rebellion seek refuge in the dark caverns of the mountains. The tongue of the hoary sage shall bless thee, and the shepherd, as he tends his flocks in the pastures of the Ganges, rehearse the glories of thy reign. Thus shall thy life glide on serenely; and when the angel of death receives his commission to put a period to thy existence, thou shalt receive the summons with tranquility, and pass, without fear, the gloomy valley that separates time from eternity: for remember, my son, this life is nothing more than a short portion of duration, a prelude to another that will never have an end. It is a state of trial, a period of probations; and as we spend it either in the service of virtue or vice, our state in the regions of eternity will be happy or miserable. Farewel, my son, I am arrived at the brink of the precipice that divides the regions of spirits from those inhabited by mortals: treasure the instructions of thy dying father in thy breast; practise them, and be happy."

At these words the great Kalahad embraced his son, and closed his eyes for ever. A torrent of tears burst from the eyes of his attendants,

dants, and the whole empire of Indostan was filled with sighs and lamentations for the loss of a prince, who might be justly stiled the father of his people.

The young monarch of Indostan followed for some time the footsteps of his royal father, whose virtues seemed again to be revived in him. But his passions soon awoke, and the dangerous abuse of power, so fatal to the monarchs of the east, completed his irregularities. He collected into his seraglio the most celebrated beauties of the east, and spent his whole time in their company. Justice was no longer administered, and virtue was banished from the court of Indostan.

So amazing a change, alarmed the whole kingdom. The vizirs and cadis assembled, and prevailed on the wise Chimas to undertake the difficult task of rousing the prince from that lethargy in which he lay, and drive the monster Vice, with all her hateful train, from the palace. Chimas well knew the danger that attended so daring an experiment; but his love for his country, and his detestation of vice, though dressed in the robes of royalty, prevailed on him to undertake the task.

Accordingly the next morning, as soon as the early messengers of the day had withdrawn the curtains of the east, and adorned the blue mountains with rays of gold, Chimas repaired to the palace, and after great difficulties

culties obtained admittance, and was introduced to the young Monarch, who trembled at the sight of this faithful counsellor. Such power has virtue over the mind of a profligate, even when seated on an eastern throne! Chimas addressed himself to the monarch with that confident freedom, for which he was always remarkable, but took care to intersperse his discourse with fables, the only veil under which truth could find a passage, thro' a herd of sycophant courtiers. He painted in the most glaring colours the distresses of the people, and the confusion that reigned through the whole empire of Indostan, and concluded in the following manner :

“ O youthful monarch, listen to the advice
 “ of one who is more desirous of thy happiness than his own. Leave for a moment
 “ these debilitating scenes of pleasure, to behold the miseries of thy people. When
 “ the great Kalahad, thy father, swayed the
 “ sceptre of this extensive empire, satisfaction
 “ smiled in every countenance, and the songs
 “ of rejoicing resounded in all parts of his
 “ dominions. But now a melancholy gloom
 “ hath covered the face of thy people, and
 “ nothing is heard but sorrow and lamentation. The lawless sons of riot commit every
 “ disorder with impunity, and vice triumphs
 “ in all parts of thy empire. Remember
 “ the instructions given thee by thy father,
 “ when he left the regions of mortality;
 “ follow

“ follow his precepts, and joy and happiness shall again return, and thy people be delivered from every distress.”

The King promised Chimas that he would no longer confine himself within his palace, but apply himself to the offices of government, labour to reform the abuses of which the people complain, and the next day administer justice in person. These resolutions spread a general joy ; but it proved of short duration. His base counsellors, on the departure of Chimas, obliterated the good impressions his advice had made on the heart of the monarch ; so that the next day, when the people assembled before the palace, they found it shut as usual.

Two days after Chimas paid a second visit to the King, and complained, in very sharp terms, of his breach of promise. The King, ashamed of his meekness, assured him, that on the morrow his subjects should have reason to be satisfied. But as soon as Chimas was departed, his favourites again destroyed these good intentions. Such is the abuse to which all human affairs are liable : truth and falsehood use the same weapons, and imperious eloquence is a two edged sword.

The people again assembled, and were again disappointed ; which so exasperated them, that they took up arms and returned to the palace, determined to force the gates and set it on fire. The King and his wicked counsellors

counsellors were now convinced of their injustice; but knew not how to divert the storm which threatened them with destruction. In this extremity a dreadful resolution was taken, to cut off all the great men of the kingdom, flattering themselves that when the leaders were no more, the rabble might be easily dispersed. In order to put this detestible scheme in execution, the prince sent for Chimas, and, by the most magnificent promises, engaged him to prevail on the people to lay down their arms, on which the King would immediately administer justice according to the ancient laws of the kingdom. Accordingly Chimas addressed himself to the people, and even promised them that they should be no longer deceived. His eloquence had the desired effect; the people dispersed, and retired to their respective habitations.

This dangerous tumult being thus happily appeased, Chimas, at the head of the vizirs, learned men, and generals of the army, repaired to the palace, where they were received with all the seeming marks of respect, and successively introduced into the palace; but instead of receiving the thanks their conduct justly merited, they were all massacred, by persons prepared to execute this bloody tragedy.

An action so full of horror inspired the populace with a rage little less than madness; they assembled before the palace in the most tumultuous

tumultuous manner, and attempted to force the gates; but as this was not to be done suddenly, the King found means to escape, thro' a small door in the garden. Soon after the people set fire to the palace-gates, and dragged those wicked counsellors who had given such inhuman advice to their monarch into the streets, where they suffered the punishment due to their crimes.

Having thus far vented their fury, they placed the son of Chimas, a youth about eighteen years of age, at the head of affairs; who, following the steps of his father, soon removed the evils complained of by the people, and made the wicked feel the weighty hand of justice.

In the mean time the young monarch wandered among the mountains of Indostan, where he suffered the greatest hardships. His food was wild fruits and roots, his drink the water that gushed from the rocks, his bed the rugged surface of the earth, and his covering the azure canopy of heaven. Here, exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather, he bewailed his former follies, and implored forgiveness from his Maker. One day as he was thus employed, with his eyes fixed on the celestial arch, he was roused from his contemplations by the approach of a venerable old man, who seemed to totter under the weight of years.

“ My

“ My son, cried this aged mortal, what
 “ corroding care preys on thy mind? and
 “ what terrible misfortune has driven thee
 “ from the habitations of men, to seek an
 “ asylum among the brute creation? I have
 “ many years resided in these sequestered
 “ parts; but never saw in them a man before.
 “ I have however found more solid pleasure
 “ here, than I ever could discover in all the
 “ companies of mirth and festivity, so com-
 “ mon among the race of giddy mortals.
 “ And if thou wilt attend to my instructions,
 “ I will teach thee the path to happiness. It
 “ is the nature of man to consider all misfor-
 “ tunes as real evils: but this is a dangerous
 “ error. They are often intended by that
 “ Being who governs the universe, as gentle
 “ corrections, to remove the veil which plea-
 “ sure throws over the objects that surround
 “ us, and turn our feet from the paths of de-
 “ struction to those that lead to happiness and
 “ joy. Fortunate, my son, are those who
 “ consider misfortunes as the kind rebukes of
 “ an indulgent parent. Happy therefore will
 “ thy condition be, if they prove the means
 “ of teaching thee, how fleeting and unsatis-
 “ factory are the joys of the sons of men;
 “ and of fixing thy desires on those that are
 “ reserved for a future state of existence.
 “ Then shalt thou pass through this thirsty
 “ desert without complaining; and, at the
 “ end of thy journey, enter on pleasures that
 “ shall

" shall never have an end. Experience hath
 " long since convinced me, that labour and
 " sorrow are the portion of the sons of men,
 " while they continue inhabitants of this
 " earthly mansion. And when the heats of
 " youth are over, and calm Reflection assumes
 " her seat, thou wilt be fully convinced of
 " this great truth, and repent the moments
 " thou hast squandered in the service of
 " Vice."

These words pierced like an arrow the heart
 of the exiled monarch, and drew a fresh
 flood of tears from his eyes. He again
 prostrated himself before the God of nature,
 and with a voice interrupted with sighs, thus
 answered the hoary hermit.

" O thou whom age and experience have
 " taught wisdom, listen to my tale, and thou
 " wilt soon be convinced, that I have abun-
 " dant reason for my sorrow, and that my
 " tears are not shed in vain. I am the son of
 " the great Kalahad, and was lately seated on
 " the throne of Indostan. My subjects will-
 " ingly paid me obedience, and my praises
 " echoed in every corner of my empire. But
 " I forsook the paths of virtue, indulged my-
 " self in every kind of luxury, and paid no
 " regard to the petitions of my people. I
 " forsook the counsel of the wise and prudent,
 " and listened to the advices of the young
 " and foolish. Justice was no longer admini-
 " stered, nor the cries of the injured regard-
 " ed.

“ ed. To put a stop to these excesses the
 “ populace assembled in a tumultuous manner
 “ before the palace ; but instead of redressing
 “ their just complaints, I took the fatal reso-
 “ lution of putting their leaders to death ;
 “ even the wise Chimas, who loved me with
 “ the affection of a father, fell a victim to my
 “ rage. But, alas ! this horrid tragedy pro-
 “ duced very different effects ; the people
 “ mad with fury at the loss of their leaders,
 “ assaulted the palace, but before they could
 “ force a passage I escaped thro’ the garden,
 “ and have ever since wandered in these path-
 “ less wastes, lamenting my weakness, and
 “ imploring forgiveness from the God of
 “ nature. But, alas ! how can sorrow atone
 “ for my wretched conduct, or a torrent of
 “ tears wash out the stain of murder !”

The hermit stood for some time astonish-
 ed ; but at last, recovering himself, he cried
 out, “ How unsearchable are the ways of
 “ Providence ! and how various are the me-
 “ thods used by the Almighty to teach wis-
 “ dom to the sons of men ! Thou, O mo-
 “ narch of Indostan, hast known from ex-
 “ perience the poignant pangs of a guilty
 “ conscience ; and adversity has taught thee
 “ this sacred truth, that virtue only is pro-
 “ ductive of happiness. But return, O son
 “ of Kalahad ! to the capital of thy empire ;
 “ thy subjects will receive thee with open
 “ arms, and the son of Chimas, who now ad-
 “ ministers

“ ministers justice, will replace thee on the
 “ throne of thy ancestors. And may the suf-
 “ ferings thou hast endured in these barren
 “ wastes never be forgotten ; may they prove
 “ a constant monitor to remind thee of the
 “ follies of thy youth, and the kindness of
 “ heaven in pardoning thy frailties. And re-
 “ member, my son, that those who follow the
 “ ways of vice, will at last plunge themselves
 “ into the gulph of destruction ; while the
 “ paths of virtue are paths of pleasantness,
 “ and lead to the regions of eternal repose.”

The Prince followed the hermit's advice,
 repaired to his capital, was kindly received
 by the son of Chimas, and governed his peo-
 ple happily for many years.

History of ADRASTUS and CAMILLA.

LOVE has made so many wretches, that
 young persons cannot be too frequently
 warned of its dangers ; and as instruction is
 much more forcibly conveyed by example
 than by precept, every account of the misfor-
 tunes of those who have been wrecked upon
 that fatal rock, may contribute to put others
 upon their guard, and make them steer with
 caution from so destructive a coast. This
 consideration has induced us to offer to the
 public the following history, which though it

contains something very extraordinary, is nevertheless founded upon fact.

Camilla, the daughter of a merchant of this city, whose wealth was but inconsiderable, had beauty sufficient to attract the affection of a young gentleman of family and rank, whose real name we shall beg leave to conceal under that of Adrastus. He soon found means to procure access to his mistress, concealing his quality from her father, to prevent him from entertaining any suspicion of his intention. He succeeded so well in his design upon Camilla, that she became perfectly enamoured of him; and indeed his person and qualifications were such as might well justify her passion for him. When he saw himself possessed of her heart, he proposed a private marriage to her, telling her, that he could not hope for his father's consent; but, as he was of a very advanced age, it might be concealed during his life, and when once he was his own master, he would cause it to be solemnized publicly.

The inexperienced Camilla too rashly consented, and accordingly they were married at the Fleet. The ceremony being over, Camilla was easily prevailed on by her lover to go over with him to Ireland. There they lived for above a twelve-month, without any visible abatement appearing in the affection of Adrastus, which, on the contrary, seemed to increase upon Camilla's being delivered of a daughter.

daughter. Her happiness, however, did not last long: Adrastus, who was no novice in love-intrigues, grew weary of her before the second year was expired, and went over to England, telling her, that business of importance required his absence for a short time; but he would dispatch it as soon as possible, and return to his Camilla upon the wings of love.

Camilla, at first, bore his absence with resignation, still comforting herself with the hopes of his speedy return: but when she found that it greatly exceeded the time he had mentioned to her, she was terribly alarmed. She did not, however, immediately call his fidelity in question: concern for his safety was the source of all her trouble. She wrote several letters to him, and having received no answer, concluded that some accident must have happened to him; and therefore immediately set out for England, not being able to live in such a cruel state of suspense. Upon her arrival she made strict inquiry after Adrastus, of whose treachery she soon received too full a proof. He went so far as to deny that she was his wife; and to remove all her scruples upon that head, sent the marriage-act to peruse. Camilla, notwithstanding this injurious treatment, at first endeavoured to recover his lost affection by tender and submissive remonstrances. But when she heard that he had engaged in an amour with a

French lady of great beauty, and was gone with her to Paris, her love was converted into rage and resentment; and she instantly formed a resolution to revenge herself upon her base betrayer, or perish in the attempt. In order to put this design in execution, she thought it advisable to disguise her sex; and having left her daughter to the care of a friend, in whom she could confide, embarked for France, as a gentleman upon his travels, and soon arrived at Paris. She immediately took lodgings in the Fauxbourg St. Germain, and made it her business to frequent all the public houses which were used by English gentlemen. But, notwithstanding all her diligence in enquiring, she could obtain no intelligence of Adrastus during an eight months residence at Paris: she therefore began to despair of meeting with him, and concluding that he was gone somewhere else, resolved to quit Paris, and return to England. The same night, happening to pass through an obscure lane, she heard the clash of swords, and, by the moon-light, could perceive one man who, with much difficulty, defended himself against two. Her disappointment in love had made her indifferent about life, and supplied the place of courage, a virtue not common in her sex. She immediately attacked and wounded one of the assailants, whereupon he betook himself to flight; and his companion, seeing he had now two to encounter, quickly followed him.

Camilla,

Camilla, perceiving that the person she had rescued was grown altogether weak by loss of blood; and that his wounds were very dangerous, caused him to be carried to a neighbouring hotel, and put to bed. She then sent for a surgeon, who, having examined his wounds, declared that they were mortal; and that he did not apprehend he had three days to live. The wounded gentleman, as soon as he was in some measure come to himself desired to see his benefactor, who waited on him accordingly; but how great was their mutual surprise, when Camilla discovered in the person she had so generously defended the false Adrastus, by whom she had been abandoned! whilst he, in her, again beheld his injured wife! The agitation which this unexpected interview threw him into, was soon succeeded by a flood of tears: a thousand times he asked her forgiveness; and she, seeing her once loved husband in such a state, felt her resentment subside, and all her tenderness return. She assured him of her constant love, and never once upbraided him for what was past. Their succeeding interviews were equally tender and affecting: but Adrastus, being apprised of his condition by the surgeon, made his will; by which he settled a considerable estate, that had lately been left him by his father, upon Camilla; and, dying about three days afterwards, left her inconsolable for his loss. She thereupon returned to England, where

where she ever after lived a retired life, and the superintendence of her daughter's education was her only care and consolation.

*The MAGIC COMBAT, or the Power of
BEAUTY. A Fairy Tale.*

IN Hamah, a city of Syria, which was formerly governed by its own princes, resided Aboucasar and Dakianos, who both were equally knowing in the arts of magic, and whose power was equally supported by the assistance of genii and ministering spirits; they were both in high credit with the prince who then sat upon the throne, but their views were opposite, and a rivalry subsisted between them, as is usual at courts. The prince was then in the bloom of youth, and the chief point contested between the two magicians was, who should be admitted to the honour of being his favourite mistress or sultana. The visir and Aboucasar espoused the cause of Selima, whose person was graceful and majestic, whilst her deportment was easy and obliging. Dakianos, on the contrary, supported the interest of Fiteah, the daughter of a nobleman of Damascus, whose beauty had made such a noise in the world, that Omar, who was then prince of Hamah, had conceived an ardent desire to see her, though

though he had a strong passion for Selima. The first step which Dakianos took, in order to effect his purpose, was to employ the spirit Uriel, who being possessed of a secret to render himself invisible, could find access every where, to go to Damascus and fetch from thence the picture of Fiteah. Aboucasar receiving notice of this, had recourse to his magic power, and upon receiving it from the prince, who was surprised at a view of such beauties, contemplated it for some time, and then returned it, saying, " the features at first appeared striking, but upon a closer view he could discover several considerable defects in them." The prince, upon reconsidering the portrait, agreed with Aboucasar; for the magician, by dissolving a little powder in the air had made the colours fade, and rendered the expression languid. Hereupon the prince's curiosity abated; but being soon excited again by Dakianos, who found means to represent the figure of Fiteah to him in a dream, he grew so impatient to see her, that he could not rest till she arrived at Hamah. When first he saw her, her beauty made a lively impression on his senses; but his heart was still so far disengaged, that he remained a long time in suspense between Selima and Fiteah, according as the magic of beauty in each, seconded by the magic of their respective abettors, operated upon his mind, which had not yet felt the influence of a real passion.

passion. However, the livelier charms of Fiteah were upon the point of prevailing over the more faint attractions of Selima, when Aboucasar called to his assistance a gnome of a malevolent nature, whose interposition has often proved destructive to the charms of beauty. The name of this gnome is Affectation, who, assuming the form of one of Fiteah's women, by her prattle and officiousness, and still more by her censoriousness, insinuated herself into the good graces of her mistress, whose favour she acquired by setting all the other women of the Haram in the most contemptible and ridiculous light imaginable, and at the same time representing all her own imperfections as excellencies. This expedient had like to have been crowned with success: the eyes of Fiteah, whose dazzling beauties before surprized all beholders, were now rolled into a squint; and her voice, whose harmony, exceeding the warbling of birds who fill the spicy groves of Syria with their notes, had acquired tones that could not fail to disgust the judicious. Omar perceived the change, and quickly transferred his affection to Selima, but still was with-held from giving her that place he resolved to bestow only on the mistress of his heart: and though he was not insensible to the power of her beauty, he could not yet resolve to decide in her favour. Dakianos, finding himself again baffled, contrived by his art a mirror, whose virtue was such

such, that it could not be sullied even by self-love, but shewed every object through the medium of truth. No sooner had Fiteah beheld herself therein, but the airs which she had practised excited her utmost contempt, and she again assumed a behaviour that soon attracted the notice of the prince, who for a time attached himself to her; whilst Selima repined with secret jealousy, and Aboucasar lamented the inefficacy of his art. The life of Omar and Fiteah for some time passed in all the excesses of voluptuousness and sensual enjoyment; but languor soon invaded the heart of the prince, and the ease with which his pleasures were acquired, rendered them tasteless and insipid. While he was one day lolling in indolence upon a sofa, a being appeared before him, whose transcendant beauty struck him with surprise. As soon as the effect which this ravishing vision had produced on him was subsided, he heard himself addressed in these words: "Omar, 'tis from me alone that you can hope to obtain what you have so long sought for. I am the power that presides over love-affairs. If mortals represent me with wings, 'tis owing to their own inconstancy, my influence is permanent and lasting. Palaces could not furnish you with a perfect beauty, a rural cottage shall afford what they denied you." The vision immediately disappeared, and these words made such an impression upon Omar, that
from

from henceforward he addicted himself to hunting, hoping to meet with perfect beauty in the woods and fields, entirely neglecting all the ladies of his court. The power of love did not prove deceitful : some moons after, when fatigued with hunting, he was obliged to seek refreshment at the cottage of the shepherd Keschetiouch, he beheld his daughter Zezbet, and from the resemblance of her features to those of the apparition he had beheld, perceived that she was the person intended for him : he immediately carried her to court, declared her sultana, and ever after lived with her in perfect happiness. Thus were the united efforts of two powerful magicians defeated by the power of beauty.

The RIVAL BROTHERS.

MANY arguments taken from the deductions of abstract reason have been urged against the inhuman practice of fighting duels ; but examples prove more forcible than speculative. Maxims, however just, and moral reflections, though founded on truth, are incapable of conveying that conviction, which an instance from real life cannot fail to produce. Urged by this consideration, I communicate to you the following tragical event ; and hope that such an example

ample may contribute to make men look upon this barbarous custom with the detestation it deserves.

A gentleman of vast fortune in New England, had two sons, whose real names I shall beg leave to conceal under those of Nicanor and Philotas. Nicanor was in his early youth sent over to England to be educated, and there remained till the death of his father; when finding himself possessed of a vast fortune, he immediately resolved to make the tour of Europe. Nothing very remarkable happened to him in the course of his travels, till at Rome; he attached himself to a courtesan with as much ardour as the young lover in Terence discovers for his Thoris. He spared nothing to gratify her vanity and voluptuous inclinations; and such was her art, that she found means to persuade him that he alone received her favours, though he really shared them with many rivals, who were all equally well received, as they contributed to cramp the avarice of Camilla, for that was the name she went by. Nicanor's servant Parmeno, who was of a character as prudent and thrifty, as his master was extravagant and indiscreet, with grief saw the great expence to which the latter put himself, and carefully watched for an occasion to detect Camilla in some intrigue, in order thereby to alienate the affections of his master from her; many such opportunities offered: but Camilla, whose ad-

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dr. 15

dress was not to be surpassed, found means constantly to give such a turn to events, as to persuade Nicanor that he was imposed upon. Camilla suspected that Parmeno had done her ill offices with his master, and therefore exerted all her arts of persuasion to such a degree, that she at last prevailed upon Nicanor to discharge him. Parmeno was soon after taken into service by an English gentleman, who went by the name of Trueman.

Mr. Trueman in a short time discovered that Parmeno had great abilities for carrying on an intrigue, and as he had seen Camilla, and was smitten with her beauty, he employed him to carry letters to her, till she at last consented to an interview with him at a certain house, not far distant from Il Porto del Populo. Parmeno, who was still attached to his old master, immediately acquainted him with this assignation; and having brought him to the place, Nicanor, who no longer doubted of the infidelity of his mistress, called his rival out, and soon gave him a mortal wound; but how great was his horror and surprise, when he, a few days after, discovered by a letter delivered to him by Parmeno, which the deceased had by mistake given to his servant, instead of one addressed to Camilla, that he had killed his own brother. Philotas had concealed his name on account of an affair of honour, which obliged him to quit Florence, where he was known,
and

and go to Rome. Nicanor was so shocked at the fatal discovery, that he immediately shot his servant Parmeno, and himself afterwards. Such are the dreadful consequences which flow from this barbarous custom here; but the thoughts of what they may occasion hereafter, must fill every true Christian with terror and consternation.

A CHINESE Tale.

THE ancient Takupi had long been Prime Minister to the Queen of Yawaqua, a fertile country, that stretches along the western confines of China. During his administration, whatever advantages could be derived from arts, learning, and commerce, seemed to bless the people, nor were the necessary precautions of providing for the security of the state forgotten. It often happens, however, that when men are possessed of all they want, they then begin to find torments from imaginary afflictions, and lessen their immediate enjoyments, by foreboding that those enjoyments are to have an end. The people now therefore cast about to find out grievances, and after some search, they actually began to fancy themselves aggrieved. A petition against the enormities of Takupi was carried to the throne in due form; and the

Queen, willing to satisfy her subjects, appointed a day, in which his accusers should be heard, and the minister should stand upon his defence.

The day being arrived, and the minister brought before the tribunal, three accusers of principal note appeared from among the number.

The first was a carrier, who supplied the city with fish. He deposed that it was the custom, time immemorial, for carriers to bring their fish upon a hamper, which being placed on one side, and balanced by a stone of equal weight on the other, the load was thus conveyed with ease and safety; but that the prisoner, moved either by a malicious spirit of innovation, or perhaps bribed by the company of hamper-makers, had obliged all carriers to take down the stone, and in its place to put up another hamper, on the opposite side, entirely repugnant to the customs of all antiquity, and those of the kingdom of Yawaqua in particular.

The carrier finished; and the whole court began to shake their heads at the innovating minister, when the second witness appeared. He was inspector of the buildings of the city, and accused the disgraced favourite of having given orders for the demolition of an ancient ruin, which happened only to obstruct the passage through a principal street of the city. He observed that such buildings were noble
monuments

monuments of barbarous antiquity, and contributed finely to shew how little their ancestors understood architecture, and for that reason they should be held sacred, and suffered gradually to decay.

The third and last witness now appeared; this was a widow, who had laudably attempted to burn herself upon her husband's funeral pile. She had only attempted, for the innovating minister had prevented the execution of her design, and was insensible to all her tears, protestations, and entreaties.

The Queen could have pardoned his two former offences, but this was considered as so gross an injury to the sex, and so directly contrary to all the customs of antiquity, that it called for immediate justice. "What, cries the Queen, not suffer a woman to burn herself when she has a mind! a very pretty minister truly. A poor woman cannot go peaceably and throw herself into the fire, but he must intermeddle; very fine indeed! the sex are to be very prettily tutored no doubt, if they must be restrained from entertaining their female friends now and then, with a roasted acquaintance. I sentence the criminal at the bar, for his injurious treatment of the sex, to be banished my presence for ever."

Takupi had been hitherto silent, and began to speak only to shew the sincerity of his resignation. I acknowledge, cried he, my crime, and since I am to be banished, I beg it may

be to some ruined town, or desolate village, in the country I have governed. His request appearing reasonable, it was immediately complied with; and a courtier had orders to fix upon a place of banishment, answering the minister's description. After some months search, however, the enquiry proved fruitless, neither a desolate village, nor a ruined town was found in the whole kingdom. "Alas, said Takupi to the Queen, how can that country be ill governed, which has neither a desolate village, nor a ruined town in it?" The Queen perceived the justice of his remark, and received the minister into more than former favour.

The MOTHER'S DISAPPOINTMENT.

NOTHING can be more reasonable than the advice which Horace gives to persons advanced in years, namely, to quit the gaiety and pleasures of youth betimes, lest they should become the jest of those whom they ought to endeavour to inspire with esteem and veneration. The justness of this admonition will fully appear from the story that I am going to relate, which may please by the novelty of its circumstances, though it, in the main, bears a strong resemblance to events which

which the experience of every individual may suggest to him.

Mr. Wilson, a native of England, being of the Roman Catholic persuasion, chose Marfeilles for his place of residence : he there in a short time made a considerable fortune by trade, and married the daughter of a merchant of the same city, named Monsieur Dorville.

Mademoiselle Dorville brought Mr. Wilson a considerable portion ; but what he esteemed much more, was her beauty, which though extremely brilliant, was not a little heightened by a certain sprightliness and coquetry, which at that age became her. Their mutual happiness was soon increased by the birth of a daughter, who in her infancy promised to vie in beauty with her mother, and every year her charms received additional lustre.

Mr. Wilson being obliged to make a voyage to the Levant, left his wife and daughter with much reluctance, promising to make his stay as short as possible. After an absence of two years, his wife, who during all that time had never heard from him, received the melancholy news of his being shipwrecked ; which occasioned in her considerable affliction. It was, however, somewhat diminished by her affection for her daughter, which continued without any abatement till the latter had attained the age of eighteen. Her jealousy
then

then began to be excited, when she perceived that the young men were assiduous in paying their court to her daughter, and that she herself was entirely overlooked. This did not at all square with her inclinations, for the memory of Mr. Wilson was now obliterated, and she began to think of another husband.

A young gentleman of Marseilles having accidentally met with the mother and daughter at an assembly, was struck with the beauty of the latter; but as he was no novice in love-affairs, he soon perceived that it was impossible for him to get access to the daughter without feigning a passion for the mother. This stratagem he put in execution, and that with such success, that Mrs. Wilson immediately resolved to marry him, and send her daughter to a convent. No sooner had she taken this resolution, but she was informed that Mr. Wilson was arrived: he ran to embrace her with the utmost transport, and she seemed quite astonished at seeing her husband again. He informed her that he had in his voyage been taken prisoner by a Corsair, and carried to Algiers, where he had remained five years, in a state of slavery, but at last found means to make his escape in a Portuguese vessel bound to Lisbon, from whence he immediately sailed for Marseilles. This event was at least as agreeable to the young lovers as to Mrs. Wilson. Lucidor, for that was the name of the young gentleman who had

had paid counterfeited addresſes to Mrs. Wilſon, immediately declared to Mr. Wilſon his paſſion for his daughter; and having received his conſent, they were ſoon after married to the ſatiſfaction of all parties, except Mrs. Wilſon, who, though ſhe affected to take part in the common joy, could not help thinking that her huſband arrived a little mal-à-propos.

The Comical Admonition.

DON John, king of Portugal, fell violently in love with Donna Perpehca de Souza, a widow of great virtue, beauty and fortune, who, as the king was married, had not the leaſt deſign to gratify his paſſion at the expence of her honour. But to give him at once a definitive answer, and a gentle leſſon, ſhe invited him to an entertainment, in which ſhe had provided nothing for him but one ſort of ſweet-meat, very rich and cloying, and ſerved in baſons of different faſhions and materials, gold, ſilver, china, copper, tin, earthen-ware, &c. The king, a little ſurprized at the ſamenefs of the ſweetmeat, and the variety of veſſels in which it was brought to table, could not forbear taking notice of it to the lady. “ Sir, ſays ſhe, that ſamenefs you
“ complain of, holds juſt alike in the ſweet-
“ meat,

“meat, for which you have so often teased
 “me; the fair, the brown, the black, the
 “slim, the corpulent, in short, all com-
 “plexions and figures are the same; the
 “vessels may vary, but there is no change of
 “dyet.”

A Just Observation.

ONE, who was well acquainted with Lon-
 don, observed, that the children born
 in town, were usually of a forward and lively
 wit, till they came to be about ten or twelve
 years of age; but that country lads, on the
 contrary, were dull of understanding; and
 made their acquisitions by slow degrees; “the
 “consequence of which is, continued he,
 “that if we examine the best shops in Lon-
 “don, we shall find them tenanted by per-
 “sons out of the country, whilst the garrets are
 “filled with natives.”

The Happiness of a virtuous Life.

IN a lovely valley between the chalky cliffs
 of Chaldee, watered by a perennial stream
 from the ancient Euphrates, Barcas, descended
 from the patriarchs of old, had pitched his
 tents,

tents. A towering oak, venerable with age, the shadow of whose spreading branches offered a cooling retreat from the noontide rays, stood before them ; and behind them a lofty grove of citrons and pomegranates, delighted the eye of the traveller, and gave its spicey odours to the fluttering breeze. His doors were always open to the stranger and the fatherless ; the indigent found in him a generous benefactor, and the oppressed a powerful protector. He delighted to remove the chilling hand of poverty from the unfortunate, and to pour the balm of comfort into the breast of the friendless. Filled with the generous principles of virtue and beneficence, he was not contented with enjoying happiness himself, but desirous of extending it to all the human race.

He always pitched his tents within sight of some principal road, that the very traveller might find refreshment, and rest securely after the toils of the day.

Among the rest that visited the hospitable tents of Barcas, was Selim, Prince of Aden, who had been driven from his country by the Sophi of Persia. His countenance was clouded with cares and disappointments, and his attention wholly employed in meditating on his misfortunes.

Barcas received the unfortunate stranger with that cordial affection, which had endeared him to all the inhabitants of the neighbouring countries.

countries. He treated him in the most hospitable manner, and endeavoured, by a cheerful and engaging conversation, to banish that melancholy which preyed upon his mind; but finding all his endeavours fruitless, he thus addressed the Prince of Aden.

“Some misfortune, heavier than those common to the sons of men, has doubtless fallen upon thee, and thy spirits are unable to support the ponderous weight. But tell me, thou that hast drank deep of the cup of affliction, is it impossible to remove the cause of thy grief, or to mitigate thy sorrow? Is the dart of affliction pierced so far into thy breast that it cannot be drawn, and is the wound too deep to admit of a cure? Remember that the path of life lies along the margin of the river of adversity, and every human being is obliged to drink often of its bitter stream. But let not the misfortunes common to all the children of men discourage us, nor deprive us of those innocent pleasures which the bountiful Father of the universe hath scattered around us, with a liberal hand.”

“Thy reasonings, Barcas, replied the stranger, are doubtless just; but misfortunes like mine are too many to be removed, and too heavy to be supported. Thou canst not be a stranger to the melancholy fate of Selim Prince of Aden. He lately flourished like a tall cedar on the mountains, and was eminently distinguished among the Princes of the earth.

earth. The oppressed of different nations implored his protection, and at his command the proud tyrants of the neighbouring countries laid the rod of oppression aside. But the haughty Persian prevailed against him, and laid all his honours in the dust. His populous cities are destroyed, and deluged with the blood of their inhabitants; his fruitful fields are turned into a desert, and his wives and children captives in the house of an imperious master. O Barcas! can misfortunes like these be supported with patience, or lessened by the generous aid of friendship? I well know, that if thy wisdom can point out a remedy for my grief, thy sincere desire of being serviceable to all the sons and daughters of affliction, will not suffer thee to conceal it; but this, I fear, is a task beyond thy power."

" Selim, replied the shepherd of Chaldee, thy misfortunes are certainly grievous, and heavy to be borne; but let not thy hours be spent in fruitless complainings, nor dare to pry into the arcana of heaven. Call not the afflictive turns of life evil, till thou art able to comprehend the intention for which they were sent; and the good which, for ought thou knowest, may arise from them. View thyself with care and sincerity, and take a true list of all the vices; remember the all-wise Being is best acquainted with thy frame, and considers thou art but a child of dust. Blame not the governor of the universe be-

cause thy canst not search the profundity of his measures, nor find out the depth of his judgments; consider thy sight at present is very imperfect, and confined within very narrow bounds. But thou shalt soon put off the veil of mortality, and thou shalt then be capable of surveying things which are now invisible. The clouds of misfortune and vapours of affliction shall be then dispersed, by the brightness of a clearer sun: the heavens shall no longer frown, but the sky exhibit a prospect of smiling serenity. The thunders of affliction shall no longer utter their hoarse voices, and the billows of grief which now rage, shall sink into a calm. Then shall the system of Providence be revealed, and the ways of heaven made known to the children of men. Learn therefore, Selim, to govern the unruly passions of thy repining soul, and reign Emperor over thyself. Remember that the things thou hast lost, were only lent thee by that Being who formed the universe, and who hath not wrested them from thee by a tyrant's arm; but for what purpose is impossible to be known, nor should wretched mortals dare to enquire. Submit thyself, therefore, to his pleasure, and bear thy misfortunes with constancy and resignation. Wait with patience and submission, till thou art taken from the regions of mortality, and then shalt thou receive the reward of all thy labours."

These

These reflections revived the heart of Selim, and his countenance became tranquil and serene. He thanked the generous Barcas for his friendly advice, and departed from his hospitable tents in peace.

The upright JUDGE.

THE company of Bakers at Lyons applied to a judge to raise the price of bread in their favour, and begging him to consider their case, took their leave, after dropping slyly in his room a purse with a considerable sum of gold in it. Soon after, when they returned for an answer, he told them, "I have weighed your reasons in the scale of justice, and find them wanting: your money, however, I have sent, in your name, to the prisons and hospitals, there to be distributed; and since I find you are in a condition of sparing such large alms, it is plain you must get enough by your trade, not to need my compliance with your request."

Story of three THIEVES.

AMONG the wicked there is no fidelity. Three villains having made a considerable

nable booty at a small distance from a country town, agreed, that it was not expedient for all three to enter the town together, but that one of them only should go and buy provisions, and bring them to the place of rendezvous in a wood. Whilst he was gone, the two who were left consulted together, in order to enlarge their share of the booty, to kill their comrade as soon as he should return with their food. This was executed. But their murdered companion, who had formed precisely the same design against them, had, after satisfying his own appetite, poisoned the mess he brought for them. Thus all died by the treachery of each other.

*The FLORIST and BULL-BULL *.* *An Oriental Fable.*

A Florist, particularly curious in roses, had in his garden a fine row of the bushes that bear that flower. On one of them grew a rose singularly beautiful; which captivated a Bull-bull who fluttered round it, and made love to it. The inanimate rose making no return to his caresses, he at length grew enraged, tore it to pieces, and strewed the ground with its blushing leaves. The Florist

* A bird of song, much valued in the East.

incensed at this treatment of his favourite flower, in revenge spread a net, and took the Bull-bull captive; who finding itself in the snare, thus expostulated with the Florist.

“How can you use me so cruelly? Do not I
 “cheerfully repay you for the harbour that
 “your garden affords me, with the music of
 “my song?” What harm, replied the Florist, had that rose done to you, that you treated it so despitely?——He released, however, his little prisoner who as soon as he had regained his freedom, shook his wings, and perched on the bow of a neighbouring tree, from whence he thus addressed the Florist.

“A good action should never go without its reward: dig at the foot of that
 “orange tree, and you will find a treasure.”

He did so, and found one. Upon which he turned to the warbler, and thanking him, asked him, how he who had eyes so penetrating as to discover a treasure buried in the earth, could avoid seeing a net over his head.

“Know, O man! replied the Bull-bull, that
 “there is no escaping the hand of destiny;
 “what must be, must be.”

The School of WISDOM.

THE true theory of the wise is their observation of fools, in order to learn by what

what they do, what should not be done. This is the true secret of picking the richest jewels out of the vilest dirt. The teachers, in this school, exact no salary, but give the lessons at their own expence, and buy your experience. Thus, from the numbers ruined by extravagance, the wise may learn the expedience of œconomy. From those who are beggared by law-suits, the advantage of not being litigious. From those who die of surfeits, or hard drinking, the excellence of temperance. In short, look on every fool as a beacon, or buoy, by which you are warned to steer clear of the follies on which he splits.

In Savoy, a poor farmer, much troubled with the fears of purgatory, dying, left in his will his only ox to be sold, and the amount to be employed in masses to be said for the good of the soul; to his wife he bequeathed in due form his favourite cat. The poor widow, by no means satisfied with this distribution, and obliged to keep to the letter of the will, as soon as she could, went to market, taking with her the ox and cat. There she offered the ox to sale, where readily meeting a chapman, she bargained with him for the ox at a crown, upon condition that he should give her nine-and-thirty for the cat; upon which she very religiously applied the produce of the ox to the use expressed in the will, and kept the rest for her own.

An Eastern Tale.

THERE was among the caliphs one more than all the rest renowned for the goodness and singularity of his temper: I need not say to those, who are conversant in the eastern history, that his name was Harour Abraschid. 'Twas his custom to walk unknown among his subjects; and hear from their own mouths their greivances and their opinion of their rulers. He advanced and degraded according to these reports; perhaps sometimes too hastily, though always with an upright purpose: and used to say, he was the only sovereign who heard the thoughts of his people.

One morning, about sun-rise, as he was walking along the side of a river, he saw an old man and his grandson earnest in discourse. The boy in wantonness had taken a water worm out of the flags; and, having thrown it on the ground, had lifted up his foot to crush it. The old man pulled him back, and just as the caliph came up, was speaking to him thus: "Boy do not take away that which is not in thy power to give. He, who gave life to that insect, gave it also to thee: how darest thou violate what he bestowed. Shew mercy, and thou wilt find mercy."

The

The caliph stopped, and hearing beggary and rags so eloquent, he stood astonished! What is your name, and where is your habitation, said he: the old man told him he was called Atelmoule, and pointed to his cottage.

In an hour a robe of state was sent to the cottage, officers attended, and Atelmoule was told he was appointed visir. They led him full of wonder and confusion to the caliph, he fell upon his face before the throne: and, without daring to look up, kissed the verge of the royal robe. Rise Atelmoule, said the caliph, you are next the throne: forget not your own lessons. "Shew mercy, and you shall find it."

The man with astonishment and surprise beheld the person with whom he had spoke in the morning.

Mean time the sun was warm; the worm, whose life the new visir had saved, opened its shelly back, and gave birth to a fly, that buzzed about and enjoyed his new born wings with rapture; he settled on the mule that carried the visir; and stung the creature. The mule pranced and threw his unaccustomed rider. The visir hung by a part of his robe, and was killed by a stroke of the creature's heel.

The account was brought to the palace; and even those who had murmured at the sudden exaltation of the man, pitied that death

death he owed to his virtue: even Providence was censured; so daring and so ignorant is man: but the caliph superior to the rest in virtue, as in office, lifting up his hands to heaven, cried, "Blessed be thy sacred name, O prophet!—I decreed honours to Atelmoule, but thou hast snatched him to thy paradise."

Story of MAHOMET.

AFTER the taking of Constantinople by the Turks, a lady of the imperial blood, of exquisite beauty, was presented to the conqueror; who, though of a fierce disposition, become so passionately enamoured, that he wasted two years in the softnesses of the seraglio. The army murmured, at last mutinied, and called aloud for the sultan to lead them out to war. Mahomet, roused by their insolence, called a divan, summoned the officers of the janizaries, himself joined them, and led in a lady veiled in his hand: Then with a furious look, demanded what right they had to trespass upon his pleasure; told them he was their emperor and lord, and they his slaves. Nevertheless, says he, for my own sake, I'll justify my own deeds. Saying this, he unveiled the lady, who was a perfect beauty, most splendidly adorned with jewels.

jewels. Are you satisfied, cries the emperor ? We are, was ecchoed back from the assembly ; but I am not, reply'd the sultan ; and wreathing his hand in the hair of the innocent captive, with his scymeter cut off her head at one blow. See, says he, your emperor is still master of himself; I am not to be taught my duty by you : I have only given the nations a breathing time, that they may be more worthy my conquering ; when I rouse myself again, it shall be only to their ruin. Go, and prepare for war and danger ; for where I command, you may tremble to obey.

Anecdote of Sir RICHARD STEELE.

AN intimate acquaintance of the late Sir Richard Steele dined with him one day after he had been lately married, and just then set up his chariot. His lady two or three times at dinner asked him if he used the chariot that afternoon : to which he only answered, Oysters. When the table-cloath was taken away, she said, well, my dear I'll take the chariot. To which he again reply'd, Oysters, my dear.—She dropt a courtesy, and confessed she was in an error, and stood re-proved.—On her retiring, Sir Richard's friend thus address'd him : " Sir, as absurd as your answer might seem to others, I know
your

your manner so well, that I am assured there is some moral instructions in your word Oysters; as it must be some gentle, humorous reproof, do me the favour to let me into the secret of it." You know, says Sir Richard, we have just set up a chariot; and being apprehensive it might have such an effect on my wife's heart, and that she might inconsiderately talk of it too much, thereby betraying a weakness of mind I would have gladly prevented, I told her a story of a young fellow who had lately set up an equipage, and had always the vanity to be talking of it;—which was as follows:

"Ned Sparkish, on the death of his elder brother, left the attorney, to whom he was clerk, set up an equipage, and commenced Petit Maitre. He was so fond of his chariot, that he was seldom out of it, or making some mention of it. He was one day walking with some gentlemen in the Mall, when one of them asked him to be of their party to dine at a famous eating-house at Charing-cross.—With all my heart, my dear, says Ned; I'll step to my servant and give some orders about my chariot—and be with you again in a moment.—On this, another gentleman said, how can you ask that coxcomb to be with us? we shall hear of nothing but his chariot. I'll lay half a dozen of French wine he talks of it within ten minutes after he comes into the room.—As I think that impossible, says another,

ther, it is a bet.—Ned by this time joined them again, and they went to Locket's. They were scarce in the room, when the gentleman who laid the wager, proposed having some Oyſters before dinner as a whet; but at the ſame time feared there were none freſh enough at that end of the town, and propoſed to ſend to Billinſgate for ſome. It was objected that would take too much time, otherwiſe they approved of his motion.—Nay, ſays Sparkiſh, let that be no objection; my chariot is at the door, and I'll diſpatch Tom away with it immediately, and he may bring the Oyſters in half an hour at fartheſt.—You ſee, continues Sir Richard, the intent of this ſtory, on how abſurd a foundation ſoever it may be built: I told it my wife as a family-piece of inſtruction; and you ſee that ſhe has good ſenſe enough, on the mention of Oyſters, to ſee and to confeſs her error.

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